



## Uproar as campaigner hits out at chains design

# LEADERS IN CALL TO BACK THE FLAG

Report by Daniel Wainwright

**SUPPORT our flag – that was the message this week from MPs, council and community leaders who hit back at claims the Black Country flag is offensive.**

Anti-racism campaigner Patrick Vernon, OBE, insisted the area was 'still in denial' over its links to the slave trade.

Following Tuesday's Black Country Day – and the festival which has seen thousands celebrating the region's history and culture – he pointed out that the chains on the official flag, designed by a Stourbridge schoolgirl, Gracie Sheppard, were a 'disturbing' image.

Leading the backlash, Dudley North Labour MP Ian Austin said: "This is ridiculous nonsense. The Black Country Festival brings everyone from our diverse communities together."

"If he had come to Stone Street Square he would have seen people off all races and backgrounds enjoying the fun. It was an example of what makes our society something to celebrate."

Dudley South Conservative MP Mike Wood added: "While we need to be sensitive, we should not be trying to re-write history."

"Chainmaking is part of our local identity and our industrial heritage. It is a history we should be proud of, not one we should be running away from."

Valerie Vaz, MP for Walsall South, said: "The flag is a symbol of unity. Gracie produced a clever design that inspires our multi-cultural present and future."

### Confederate

But Mr Vernon, a former London Labour councillor who grew up in Wolverhampton, added: "If we were in America the chains logo would be seen as the equivalent as the Confederate Flag."

One council leader has invited Mr Vernon to visit the Black Country and see it for himself. Sandwell Council's Darren Cooper said: "It is simply wrong to say the flag is offensive. I'm inviting Mr Vernon to visit and see the diversity of our culture."

The flag was designed in 2012 by the Stourbridge youngster. Her design was inspired by Elihu Burritt, the American consul to Birmingham who described the region as 'black by day and red by night'. The white cone in the middle symbolises the Red House Glass Cone and the chains commemorate local industry.



Symbol of pride or prejudice — Philip Tibbetts of Halesowen, wearing Black Country Tartan, proudly waves the Black Country flag in Dudley

## More go for breast screening in borough

THE number of women being invited for breast screening is rising but the total who actually go is falling in some parts of the West Midlands, although not in Dudley.

Across the country there has been a 4.7 per cent increase in letters sent to women eligible for the tests. However, the number who book an appointment has fallen for the third successive year. It comes as the Government calls for the number of screenings to go up every 12 months to boost the fight against cancer.

But cancer charities say the figures could show that women are making 'informed decisions'.

In 2013/14, 72.1 per cent took up their invitation to be screened and were screened

within six months of invitation. This compares with 72.2 per cent in 2012/13 and 73.1 per cent in 2011/12.

Locally, the total being screened has fallen in Sandwell, Staffordshire, Worcestershire and Birmingham. But it has risen slightly in Dudley, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

In Sandwell the percentage dropped from 72.8 to 72.1, and Staffordshire's total went from 79.6 to 79.2, compared to a drop from 71.1 per cent to 70.5 in Birmingham. The sharpest drop was Worcestershire, from 80.7 per cent to 79.4.

Across the West Midlands there was a 0.5 per cent drop to 76.3 per cent.

Under the NHS Breast Screening Pro-

gramme, all eligible women aged 50-70 are invited for a test every three years.

The aim of breast screening is to detect cancer at an early stage when any changes in the breast are often too small to feel.

Of all women in England with cancers found in 2013/14, 39.9 per cent – 7,175 – had invasive but small cancers of less than 15mm in diameter, usually too small to detect by hand.

Mia Rosenblatt, at Breast Cancer Campaign, said: "Although there has been a small decline in the proportion of women attending breast screening, it is encouraging to see that confidence in the screening programme remains strong."

### ECONOMY

## MPs team up in a bid to boost jobs

MPS from across the West Midlands have teamed up to work in boosting jobs, business and industry.

Dudley North Labour MP Ian Austin has met with others from across the political divide. He is co-chairing the All Party Parliamentary Group on the Economy of the West Midlands with Wyre Forest Conservative MP Mark Garnier.

Set up to get MPs from all parties working together to raise issues affecting the regional economy, the group regularly meets with leading figures from Local Enterprise Partnerships and business.

### FATALITY

## Funeral date for Russells Hall nurse

THE funeral of Russells Hall Hospital nurse killed when thrown from his motorbike while on his way to work will take place on Tuesday, July 21.

Christian Hugh Davies – known as Hugh – died at the scene of the accident on Pedmore Road, Brierley Hill.

The funeral of the 50-year-old from Ambecote is at St Mark's Church, Pensnett, from 1.15pm. Donations will be collected for Holt-Oram Syndrome Support Group and British Motorcycle Federation Foundation.

### COURT

## Carers' not guilty pleas over death

TWO carers have pleaded not guilty to causing the death of a man who died while visiting Devon.

Barbara Arch, aged 57, of Smallshire Way, Stourbridge, and Wendy Silvester, 48, of Newland Court, Birmingham, denied manslaughter when they appeared before Judge Francis Gilbert, QC, at Exeter Crown Court. They were both carers looking after Andrew Strazdins when he died on May 19, 2014, in North Devon. They are both accused of manslaughter through gross negligence while they had a duty of care.

Judge Gilbert released both women on bail.

### INSIDE

## THE PINK ARMY FIGHT CANCER



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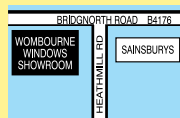
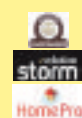
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# Borough's economy lagging behind



Ninder Johal — challenge

DUDLEY'S economy is the worst performing in the Black Country and one of the worst in the country, new figures reveal.

The borough's year-on-year growth to the end of March was just 0.4 per cent. It falls behind the regional average of 2.2 per cent and was outperformed by neighbouring Black Country boroughs, which were also outpacing Birmingham.

Black Country Chamber of Commerce president Ninder Johal said the issue provides a 'challenge' for Dudley.

"This figure shows that we need to work harder in Dudley," he said. "Peo-

ple should use this as a challenge. Dudley will benefit from the growth of the other three Black Country boroughs. Each particular borough is different and you wouldn't expect the same growth at the same time of the year."

Worcestershire, including Wyre Forest, Hagley and Clent, was among the top performing areas with growth of 3.4 per cent.

The Royal Bank of Scotland's Regional Growth Tracker shows Staffordshire's economy grew by 2.4 per cent in the 12 months up to March this year. Wolverhampton and Sandwell were

close behind on 2.1 per cent, and both outperformed Birmingham, which managed a 1.9 per cent increase. Walsall achieving a growth rate of 1.8 per cent.

But bottom of the list for the West Midlands is Dudley.

Dudley Council has ambitious projects aimed at turning the borough around, such as the ongoing revamp of the town centre and a £50 million regeneration project proposed to transform land in Halesowen base the M5. It is estimated that new business hub could create 6,000 jobs, thought there are fears over impact on the green belt.

# Council's new power to target thugs and drugs

**YOBS causing a nuisance and drug dealers hanging around the streets will be tackled by the use of new council powers.**

A crackdown is being launched by Dudley Council, which is looking to introduce Public Space Protection Orders to curb problems.

If approved, the proposed order would ban a range of anti-social behaviour.

Shoppers using Stourbridge's Ryemarket shopping centre car park have complained about gangs of teenagers and skateboarders. But the powers could be used to stop under-18s from entering the car park unless driving a road legal vehicle or accompanied by a responsible adult. In Netherton, the council is looking to tackle drugs and alcohol. Large groups of people could be interpreted as intimidating following complaints about menacing behaviour.

Anyone caught flouting the rules would face a £100 fine or being taken to court.

A consultation has been launched to get the views of residents and businesses in Netherton and Stourbridge. If approved, the orders will be in place for three years covering Exeter Road/ Bowling Green, Netherton and Ryemarket pay and display car park.

## Right

Cabinet member for health and well-being Councillor Rachel Harris said: "Everyone has the right to be safe and to feel safe. The safety and well being of our residents is of the utmost importance and is something we take very seriously."

"We have worked closely with the communities concerned and the police in and will continue to do so now and in the future. When the orders are made, Dudley Council will be working with the police to employ a no tolerance approach to breaches."

The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act introduced the Public Space Protection Order to allow local authorities to control anti-social behaviour more effectively.

Feedback from the consultation, which runs until August 2, will be reviewed by the council and police. If supported, the order would go live within the areas before the summer is over. See [www.dudley.gov.uk/business/environmental-health/consultation-for-public-space-protection-order/](http://www.dudley.gov.uk/business/environmental-health/consultation-for-public-space-protection-order/)

## Cheerleaders are jumping for joy



Emma Pugh, aged 18, from Cradley Heath, jumps high as the cheerleaders' club uses its new gear

A CHEERLEADING troupe is jumping for joy after being handed a cash boost from the National Lottery.

Pedmore Panthers has been awarded £9,800, which will allow for gymnastics lessons to complement cheerleading classes.

It is a real pick-me-up for the group, which faced an uncertain future last year after it was forced to move out from its former home in the Cloughton Youth Centre in Dudley.

But since moving to its new base in Inspired Communities Centre in Canal Street, Brierley Hill, the club has gone from strength to strength.

Head coach Julie Pugh said: "We had to move to new premises in October and at one point we didn't know what we were going to do. We only had around two or three months' notice and didn't really know where to go."

"Everywhere was just too expensive for us, until Paul Campbell - who runs a karate class here

- told us about it. Since we moved here we wanted to have some more classes, not just cheerleading."

The group, which has 40 members aged from four to 22, has spent the National Lottery windfall on a 'tumble track' which allows budding gymnasts and cheerleaders to train in a safe environment.

Mrs Pugh added: "With the tumble track they can learn to do all sorts of flips and it gives them confidence. It can be scary at first but this really helps."

# Alcoholic, 31, in a jealous attack with file is jailed

A MAN who was armed with a file when he charged at a Stourbridge shopkeeper only to get butted in the face has been jailed for 18 months.

Anthony Hyde had split up with his partner and she was in a new relationship with Mohammed Tabazar, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

Mr Tabazar worked in a shop in High Street, Lye and he was told by Hyde: "She's married to me" before he took the large file from his rucksack. Hyde ran towards Mr Tabazar while holding the weapon but was butted by his potential victim, who managed to disarm him after a struggle.

Hyde, of Cypress Road, Kates Hill, admitted getting in touch with his ex-partner in breach of a restraining order and also making threats with an offensive weapon.

Mr Delroy Henry, defending, said the 31-year-old father-of-two had acted on impulse and now accepted it had been 'reckless and foolhardy behaviour'.

He told the court that Hyde accepted there was no excuse for his actions on March 10, when his judgement had been impaired by alcohol.

Mr Henry said: "He is old enough to know better and he accepts he must have put this other man in fear for his safety. He has now been in touch with Alcoholics Anonymous to try and resolve his drink problem."

Judge Nicholas Webb made a fresh five year restraining order forbidding Hyde from contacting his former partner.

## Petition opposing deal over mosque

AN ONLINE petition has been set up urging council bosses to reject an offer from Dudley Muslim Association in the long-running saga over a new mosque in the town.

The DMA has offered Dudley Council £325,000 to drop a court action blocking plans to build a replacement central mosque. But a petition has now been launched on the change.org website urging the council to turn it down. More than 300 people have signed it.

It states: "The idea of Dudley Council taking cash from the DMA in order to go against the wishes of the people of Dudley is an affront to justice. The legal process must continue."

Residents are invited to give their views when the scrutiny board considers the offer on July 27 and 28.

## Crews called to deal with fire at offices

TEN firefighters were called to tackle a roof fire in Stourbridge town centre.

The fire was at the offices of Happy Giraffe marketing agency in Lower High Street, this week. Firefighters were called from Stourbridge and Brierley Hill stations.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Library vans are stolen from depot

THREE mobile libraries that deliver books to the elderly and disabled in their homes have been stolen.

The council-owned home library vans, including books and audio books, were stolen from a locked compound in Tipton Road.

The service, which supports people in Dudley and Wolverhampton, had to be halted for a day. Dudley Council have had to hire replacement vans.

Brierley Hill's Councillor Rachel Harris said: "This theft is thoughtless, nasty and has cost our taxpayers money."

Merry Hill in car park £3m revamp

CAR parks and roads at Merry Hill are being given a £3 million revamp aimed at making them more attractive to shoppers and boosting visitor numbers.

Pathways and routes between the shopping malls and car parks at the centre in Brierley Hill are also being spruced up to make it easier for people to get around the 125-acre site.

The work is being carried out by Intu Properties, which announced in February it would spend £20m on improvements to the complex over the next three years.

Taxpayers pick up bill for travellers

TRAVELLERS have left rubbish and a burned-out caravan on a park in Halesowen. The group had been on Hurst Green Park for two weeks before being moved off by bailiffs.

Dudley Council has now spent £2,800 on temporary bollards.

The wreck of the caravan and other litter remained on site while council bosses sought contractors to remove it. Councillor Hilary Bills said: "Yet again the taxpayer has to foot the bill for mess left by other people."

Evening tours going behind scenes at hall

A PROGRAMME of evening guided tours of Himley Hall has been launched.

Staff are running the tours due to popular demand until September.

Visitors will be able to see rooms not normally open to the public including the servants quarters, cellars, butler's sitting room and the Earl of Dudley's bedroom. Visitors can also see the newly-refurbished North Wing complete with art-deco swimming pool room and cinema bar. Call (01384) 817817.

Arts and crafts at pub

A STOURBRIDGE pub and live music venue is holding a summer craft fair this weekend.

The event at Katie Fitzgerald's in Enville Street, Wollaston, is being held on Sunday from 2pm. There will be stalls selling arts and crafts, including glass and ceramic items.

Taxi drivers saying car tests need to change

TAXI owners in Dudley are demanding a change to rules which mean they have to fork out to £500 in vehicle tests every year.

Current policies are out-dated and hitting drivers in the pocket, according to members of Dudley Private Hire and Taxi Association.

Taxi owners have to pay £230 for their vehicle test and licence application every year but drivers of older cars, over six years old, face additional vehicle tests during the year.

Rules limiting the colour of taxis to white were scrapped last year following a campaign by cabbie, including 'slow drives' in Dudley town centre.

The association says the change has allowed more of its members to change their cars meaning there are less older vehicles on the roads.

But under current rules, cars aged between six and eight years face two tests a year and those over eight need a test every four months. Additional tests can cost £153.40 under current guidelines.

Committee

Association chairman Shaz Saleem said: "The policy is outdated now. This policy should change as it is hitting people in the pocket."

New proposals which will go before the council's taxi committee saying vehicles between six and 10 years old should be subject to six-monthly tests. Vehicles 10 years old and above would still receive four month tests.

It was due to be discussed at a meeting this week.

Lorry driver killed in crash identified

A LORRY driver killed in a crash on the M6 was named today as Lee 'Andy' Smith from Dudley, as his fiancée paid a touching tribute to him.

Mr Smith, from Wrens Nest, died when his Mercedes drop side lorry collided with another HGV.

The 46-year-old's fiancée, Jean, said: "Andy was a loving fiancé, father, granddad, brother and uncle to many. Everyone is in total shock to lose him in this way. He leaves three daughters, two sons and five granddaughters. We are all devastated to lose Andy in such shocking circumstances."

The crash happened just after 9am on Tuesday, July 7, near junction 4 of the M6. Anyone with information should call police on 101.

Stars to turn out for charity game

THE Dudley Group NHS Charity is getting a team together to play a charity football match against Wolves All Stars. The game will be played at Stourbridge FC's War Memorial ground on September 27.

Man admits murder in cellar body case



Killer Stuart Millership

A 33-year-old man has admitted murdering a father whose body was found in the basement of a Rowley Regis home on New Year's Day.

Stuart Millership has also apologised for the lies he told about the crime and the anguish caused to the family of victim Mr Baljit Singh.

Mr Singh, from Meadow Road, Edgbaston disappeared on December 23 last year after reportedly leaving his home to collect a birthday cake for his son.

The 50-year-old's body was found by police at around 9am on January 1 at a house in Beeches Road, Rowley Regis, the address

where Millership lived. A post-mortem examination revealed Mr Singh died from head injuries and knife wound to the neck.

Millership pleaded guilty to the murder when he appeared at Wolverhampton Crown Court last week. He had earlier denied the offence and a trial had been due to start. As a result, a further hearing was due to take place this week.

Mr Rex Tedd QC, who leads the defence legal team, read just one paragraph from the basis of Millership's guilty plea to the court. It stated: "I am truly sorry for the death of Baljit Singh and the anguish that this has caused his family, particularly his

wife and son. I wish to apologise for my part in this offence and for my earlier failures to tell the truth."

Millership, of Beeches Road, was arrested at an address in Kingswinford the day before the body was found, on suspicion of stealing Mr Singh's Range Rover. He was later charged with murder.

He appeared in court wearing an open neck white shirt and black trousers. He was remanded in custody until Tuesday, July 14, when there was due to be a further court hearing.

Neither police or Mr Singh's family will comment until the case is completed.

Police pay Lord Cobham for station to be nursery

A VILLAGE police station that closed amid multi-million pound budget cuts is turning into a nursery, under fresh plans.

Hagley Police Station closed in April last year as West Mercia Police attempts to find £30 million of savings by 2020.

The premises has now been bought for £580,000, although West Mercia Police had to fork out £262,500 to pay Lord Cobham and Hagley Hall Estate to allow for the sale to go ahead.

The land where the police station stands was gifted to the force by Lord Cobham a number of years ago with the condition that it remained a police station.

Planning permission has now been granted to revamp the site off Kidderminster Road.

Nursery chain Cottontails, based in Birmingham, will be converting the police station ready for youngsters. There will be a first floor extension on the sides of the building and at the front to create more space including for an office and staff room.

A two-storey extension will be built at the rear with outdoor play areas created. A school room will be created on the first floor.

Community campaigner Peter Rowbottom hit out at the payment made by the police to Lord Cobham, revealed in a Freedom of Information request.

"This means that only 55 per cent of the sale value has been released by the police themselves, which means there is less public funding for police to protect local people from crime," he said.

Patron

"As Viscount Cobham is Patron of Hagley Community Association, who are responsible for the current community centre, and Hagley Parish Council have a proposal for a new community centre which has been backed by many villagers, I would personally like to see at least some of this £262,500 donated towards this project, which would benefit the entire community of Hagley."

Lord Cobham, who does charitable work in the community including recent events for local scouts, added: "It is a perfectly normal business transaction undertaken from the estate's advisors."



Councillor Christine Perks with a blooming hanging basket in the village, as part of a project to create a colourful, closer-knit community

Residents backing beautiful blooms

GREEN-FINGERED residents in Amblecote are gearing up for the first Amblecote in Bloom competition entry.

The project was the brainchild of Councillor Christine Perks who formed a Friends of Amblecote team to take the initiative forward.

Councillor Perks said: "When Halesowen and Stourbridge started doing it, I thought why can't we do it too. We started off getting different brackets for flowers and now they look fabulous. We're seeing this year as a spring board to get even bigger and better for next."

"When we first started it was a slow response but now we've got most of the village involved and its something that small businesses have really embraced."

A total of £1,500 funding was secured from the Community Forum and Innovation Fund and donations were also received from businesses including Geoff Hill Electricians.

The village has been transformed with flower beds, baskets and trees. To get involved contact cllr.christine.perks@dudleymbc.org.uk

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## THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



JANE Peyton, elected as Britain's first "Beer Sommelier of the Year," says beer often goes better with food than wine but is sneered at by wine snobs. Maybe it is. But if you want a truly horrified hush to descend on a smart restaurant, try uttering these words: "A pint of cider, please."

WOMEN footballers, having proved themselves as valiant as the men, should surely be called lions rather than lionesses. After all, feminine terms such as actress, lady doctor, aviatrix and editrix are now regarded as patronising. But it seems I am a voice in the wilderness. The Times, no less, refers to our women's soccer team as "England Glory Girls." How charmingly 1930s.

THERE was a time when I would have raged against any plans to turn Sundays into just another working day. You don't have to be a churchgoer, or even vaguely religious, to believe that one day of the week should be slower, quieter and somehow special. But the latest Whitehall plans for extended shopping hours are just another chipping-away at an institution which is virtually dead already. So bring it on. Let's have 24/7 Sunday shopping. And how long will it before Sunday becomes a normal working day for everyone and our children will ask, as the dowager duchess asked in Downton Abbey: "What is a weekend?"

AS Dallas Campbell continues his trips into potholes in Britain Beneath Your Feet (BBC1) I was reminded of the intrepid pot-holer on Countryfile (BBC1) who assured



us that few people suffer from claustrophobia when potholing. That, my friend, is because we claustrophobics keep well away from potholes. Call me windy but of

all the ways a man can choose to die, being stuck by your shoulders 200ft below ground and hearing the water rising must be the worst.

MORE encounters with the B-word. A reader has a text book from his apprenticeship as a printing compositor. It tells us: "The Half title, or bastard title as it is sometimes termed, is always a right hand page and consists usually of the name or page of the book."

LITTLE blue leather sandals, short socks, red romper shorts and white blouse. Good to see, from Princess Charlotte's christening photographs, that Prince George is being raised just like any other little boy. Any other little boy of 1953, that is.

A MAN has been fined £220 and banned from keeping a pet after swallowing a live goldfish. The RSPCA alleged that the fish would have suffered distress for several minutes. Fair enough, but are the rich still enjoying live oysters?

**Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star**

# U-turn over bid to reduce fire stations

CONTROVERSIAL proposals to downgrade four fire stations – two still in the process of being built – have been scrapped.

Kinver, Codsall, Bilbrook and Brewod stations were all due to have their emergency cover removed under initial proposals by Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service to help them save £1.7 million.

Emergency capability in the

county would have gone down from 42 pumps at 33 stations to 15 pumps at 15 stations.

South Staffordshire MP Gavin Williamson launched a petition calling for Kinver, Brewood, Bilbrook and Codsall to all keep their engines, collecting more than 2,500 names. Kinver and Codsall stations are still in the process of being completed.

Despite the U-turn which saw the

proposals withdrawn, he still presented the petition in Parliament.

"I welcome the recommendation being put to the fire authority but wanted to leave councillors in no doubt about the strength of feeling," he said.

"We are all very proud of the dedication, commitment and selflessness of firefighters but they were being let down by the original proposals.

"The entire thing has been a fiasco. Millions of pounds of public money has been spent on refurbishing fire stations. Some are still being built and faced the prospect of being downgraded."

Mr Williamson added: "That vast groundswell of public opinion against the proposals has made the chief fire officer realise that course of action was utterly ridiculous."

# More than 60 homes on way for canalside

by Richard Guttridge

**DOZENS of homes will be built in Brierley Hill under new plans to transform a derelict industrial site into a plush canalside estate.**

Clearwater Properties wants to build 61 properties on the Waterside Business Park site in Brettell Lane.

Quattro Design Architects, which has submitted the plans on the developer's behalf, said the scheme would "regenerate a derelict industrial site into much-needed homes".

Clearwater said the development would reinvigorate a site which has struggled to attract new businesses, and that new homes would be in keeping with similar new-builds nearby.

A 100ft block of industrial units currently dominate the site and would be flattened to make way for the new homes.

In total, 52 houses would be built. They would be a mixture of two, three and four bedroom properties and would be accompanied by nine flats.

Councillors are expected to examine the proposals in the coming weeks.

As part of the blueprint, a line of homes would overlook the canal with properties on the opposite side of an access road.

**Prominent**

Green space to be used by residents is also a prominent feature of the designs.

A design and access statement with the plans says: "The submitted site layout plan is only provided as an indication of how the site could be developed but it does establish some key principles of the scheme. These include creating an improved relationship with the canal, establishing a strong frontage onto Brettell Lane and integrating open spaces within the site."

News of the potential development was welcomed by Brierley Hill councillor Zafar Islam who said the homes would be an attractive addition to the area.

## New flavour of scratchings is hot stuff



**Gemma Williams, Philip Rolls and Steve Edwards with the pork scratchings which have been produced for the festival**

IT is the bostin' bar snack which has its humble beginnings in the Black Country. Now two special varieties of pork scratchings have been produced to mark the Black Country Festival.

The varieties – a traditional flavour and a hot chilli version – will be on sale during the month-long event.

The traditional bags feature an old image of Dudley town centre, supplied by the Black Country Living Museum. The chilli flavoured scratchings come in a clear bag with a Black Country Flag on the front.

They were inspired by links forged between Dudley pub chain and brewery Black Country Ales and Bloxwich's Black Country Snacks. The snacks will be sold at the chain's 24 pubs including The Court House, Dudley.

Black Country Festival Community Group chairman Steve Edwards said the link up was proof the event was bringing businesses together.

"It is great that the scratchings have been made for the festival. Nothing is more Black Country than a pork scratching," he said.

"I want to thank both companies for coming on board with the festival. It is brilliant to have their support."

Black Country Ales director Angus McMeeking said: "For many of our customers having a beer and a packet of pork scratchings is just right." Black Country Snacks director Alex Rolls added: "We are proud to be part of the festival." The snacks will be sold at Black Country Festival events.

# Youngsters sign pledge to read more in summer

LIBRARIES in Dudley are joining the bid to set a Guinness World Record for the most pledges received for a reading campaign.

On Saturday the Summer Reading Challenge was launched across the borough and children can still sign up at any of the 13 branches and four library links.

The Reading Agency challenge encourages children to read six library books during the long summer holiday. Last year more than 800,000 children took part.

Councillor Rachel Harris, cabinet member for health and wellbeing, said: "It is important for children to keep up their reading skills and the reading challenge is a wonderful way to keep them entertained for free during the summer break."

Youngsters who sign up can read whatever they like, be it joke books, picture books or audio books, just as long as they are borrowed from one of the borough's libraries.

**Certificate**

Every time they finish a book they get stickers and rewards and receive a certificate when they complete reading the six titles of their choice.

Young volunteers, aged between 14 and 24, will also be helping to encourage children to discover the pleasure of reading and to develop their creative skills during the summer.

For more information about the scheme visit the website [www.summerreadingchallenge.org.uk](http://www.summerreadingchallenge.org.uk)

# Beacon bowlers set a challenge

TEN-PIN bowling teams have been challenged to a game with a difference by players from a leading West Midlands charity.

Beacon, which provides activities for people with blindness, has two new bowling teams competing in the national 10-pin bowling blind league. The Beacon Pin Bashers play out of Dudley Bowlplex and Beacon Shiners at Hollywood Bowl at Bentley Bridge.

Tim Jukes, from Beacon, said: "The bowling teams are part of our ActivEyes project, to enable adults to take part in a broad range of leisure pursuits. We think bowlers across the region would be amazed to see how skilful the Beacon teams are so we are throwing out a challenge to local clubs to play a game against us." Contact Tim Jukes on 01902 880111.

# Red, black and white theme for charity ball

THERE will be a red, black and white dress theme for a Black Country Ball taking place next month.

The event in aid of the Beauty with a Purpose charity is being held in the Village Hotel, Castlegate, on August 7. Tickets cost £20, call 07707 626286.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Wildlife trust to hold craft events

STAFFORDSHIRE Wildlife Trust is holding weekly craft sessions for youngsters at Highgate Common, near Stourbridge, during the school summer holidays.

Crafty Creations on the Common will run each Wednesday from July 22 to August 19 from 2 to 4pm.

There is no need to book and each week something completely different will be made out of natural materials.

For more information on the sessions and other events run by the trust, visit them online at [www.staffs-wildlife.org.uk](http://www.staffs-wildlife.org.uk)

Slade home for Christmas date

BLACK Country glam rock favourites Slade will be returning to the Robin 2 in Bilston for a Christmas special show.

The hometown concert on December 17 will feature original members Dave Hill and Don Powell alongside more recent members, bassist John Berry and vocalist Mal McNulty.

The set will feature festive favourite Merry Xmas Everybody as well as loads of other Slade hits.

Advance tickets are on sale now for £20.00 with the price on the door £22.50. Visit [www.therobin.co.uk](http://www.therobin.co.uk)

2,000 fake DVDs are seized in raid

MORE than 2,000 fake DVDs with a street value of around £20,000 were seized in a raid in Dudley.

Trading standards officers carried out the raid as part of a national crackdown on counterfeiting and piracy. They discovered 2,000 of the fake films, many of which were top titles and latest releases.

Dudley Council said an investigation was under way and it was unable to reveal where the raid took place because of the ongoing enquiry.

New festival ale shows brewery on its Mettle

A BREWERY in Halesowen has created a real ale for the Black Country Festival.

Mettle and Fire is a 4.8 per cent strength beer, which Angel Ales will be supplying to local pubs. Angel is based in a former chapel of rest in Furlong Lane.

The brewery is also working with another Halesowen brewery, Fixed Wheel, on a powerful 15 per cent beer, called Cyclone, to be launched at Birmingham Beer Bash later this month.

Town goes very cherry

LIVE music, history actors and plenty of cherries will feature in a popular festival returning to Bewdley.

The Cherry Fair will take place in and around Bewdley Museum in Load Street on July 25 and July 26. The Worcestershire town was famous for its cherry orchards.

Witnesses in contact with police after fatal crash

POLICE investigating a crash in which a hospital nurse suffered fatal injuries say several witnesses have come forward.

Christian Hugh Davies – known as Hugh – died after being thrown from his motorbike on his way to work at Russells Hall Hospital.

The 50-year-old's Honda motorbike collided with a white van on Pedmore Road at the junction with The Gateway, shortly before 7pm on Tuesday, June 30.

Sergeant Alan Wood, from West Midlands Police, said: "A number of witnesses have come forward and supplied us with information about the collision, however, if there are any other road users who saw what happened, I would encourage them to contact us."

Mr Davies was hailed as 'caring and courageous' by his family as they paid tribute after the tragedy.

Bosses at the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, which runs Russells Hall Hospital, added their own tribute. Paula Clark, chief executive, said: "Hugh worked for the Trust for 25 years and was very popular with his patients and his colleagues."

"Hugh was a very skilled nurse who had a particular skill for teaching and passing on his knowledge to others. He will be very much missed. We would like to pass on our sincere condolences to his partner Julie, his family, friends and close colleagues."

Anyone with information about the road accident is asked to contact police on 101.

Bamboo plea to root out problem

DUDLEY Zoo keepers are appealing for bamboo roots so they can grow more plants to provide food for red pandas at the Castle Hill attraction.

They are asking people digging up bamboo from their gardens to donate the roots to the zoo so staff can increase the stock of shoots.

Senior keeper Jodie Dryden said: "In the wild, the red panda's diet consists of about 65 per cent bamboo and at Dudley Zoo we like to mimic what animals would feed on in their natural environment. If people would be kind enough to donate any unwanted roots we could then plant them on site and grow a good supply for our red pandas."

Bring bamboo roots to the main zoo entrance inside the Safari Gift Shop.

Health trust rates as top employer

A HEALTH trust has been named as one of the top employers in healthcare. Dudley and Walsall Mental Health NHS Trust has been praised by the Health Service Journal and Nursing Times.

Wolves star Kevin makes Molly's prom



Molly Caddick with Kevin McDonald

IT was about far more than just the dress for one young lady who was met by a star footballer and chauffeured by the double of a racing car legend at her end-of-school prom.

Arriving in style, youngsters from across the Black Country have been making their way to the ball in limousines, race cars, VW Camper vans, milk floats and tractors.

Dolled up in their full length gowns and suited and booted, teenagers have celebrated the end of their school years at star-studded venues across the region.

It was a prom night to remember for Kinver High School pupil Molly Caddick who met Wolves player Kevin McDonald, on her way to the Mercure Kidderminster Hotel. The 16-year-old from Mount Road, Penn was also driven to the hotel by a lookalike for Top Gear racer, The Stig, at the event last week.

The unique arrival was organised by her mother, Bev Caddick, who said: "The whole family love Top Gear and we wanted something unique so I hired the costume and a friend offered to drive her in his Land Rover."

If that wasn't surprise enough, while the teenager was posing for pictures in the garden, her favourite footballer, midfielder McDonald dropped by to say hello.

Mrs Caddick said: "We are big Wolves fans. It was such a lovely surprise for her. She looked so beautiful, both me and her dad are very proud."

The Stig was revealed as Mark Durman. Mrs Caddick said: "Mark and his wife Alison helped us. With the venue being quite a distance, The Stig was the right man to get her there in record time, safely."

The police did nothing to protect our Tony

DISGUSTED and disillusioned – the words of the father of Netherton man Tony Jones, who died on a bus outside Wolverhampton police station without any officers or staff helping him.

The 28-year-old's family said they were outraged at the events on October 17 with their loved one left dying on the bus outside the city's main police station for almost an hour.

Following a Independent Police Complaints Commission report into the failings surrounding Mr Jones's death, his father John – a 57-year-old retired painter and decorator from Upper Gornal – said he was 'disgusted and utterly disillusioned with the police'.

Bus driver Ravinder Kumar diverted the N01 Dudley to Tettenhall bus to the police station to seek help after seeing Mr Jones slumped in his seat. He twice went in the station but, after his pleas for help went unanswered, called 999 for an ambulance himself. It arrived eight minutes later and two paramedics immediately started trying to revive Mr Jones.

The IPCC found that the incident wasn't logged at the front desk; some staff refused to get involved because they did not feel it was their job; the incident should have been classed as an emergency; and there was a defibrillator at the station that went un-used as Mr Jones suffered what medics classed a cardiac arrest. His father said: "The fact the incident was only logged by them after my son had been pronounced dead speaks volumes. It was a shambles. It is the job of the police to protect the public but they did absolutely nothing to protect Tony as he was dying outside their front door."

Disciplinary

Following the tragedy, front desk worker Per-mjit Chima is facing disciplinary action and Special Constable Stefan Jones no longer volunteers with West Midlands Police.

Tony's sister Sarah Hart, 27, of Upper Gornal, said: "We have not had so much as a word of apology from the police over the mess they made of this. The whole thing was disgraceful. We are very grateful for what other passengers on the bus did to try to help Tony but I still find it almost impossible to believe that untrained members of the public were left to deal with such a situation outside a police station full of people with first aid training and a defibrillator."

Mr Jones, of Gill Street, had alcohol, traces of heroin and sleeping pills in his blood, said pathologist Dr Manel Mangalika. He was taking medication as well as methadone, a heroin substitute



Police inaction was disgraceful – that's the view of Mr Jones's sister Sarah Hart, right, and niece Chloe Law



Tony Jones, of Netherton, died on a bus aged 28



Scene of the tragedy, Wolverhampton Police HQ

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It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

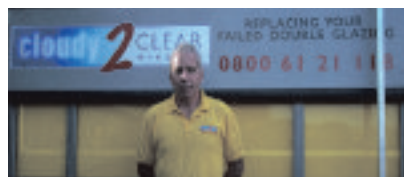
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money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

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area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people



I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

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## IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



# Our flag is all about celebrating industries

THERE are a lot of things about The Beatles' song Penny Lane which I find offensive. The turgid, sentimental lyrics. The dreary, depressing tune. The slack-jawed, disbelief which inevitably follows the confession that I don't actually like The Beatles.

Look, they're just a pop group, like any other, and I don't like them, OK?

However, no reasonable person would ever dream of criticising the song because it celebrates a street which was named after a slave trader. The link is just too tenuous.

Which brings us to Patrick Vernon, an anti-racism campaigner who for the most bizarre of reasons, has taken offence at the Black Country flag.

Mr Vernon, who grew up in Wolverhampton before moving to the Big Smoke, finds the image of a chain in the Black Country flag "offensive", saying it has connotations with the slave trade.

Oh, gerrover yerself, Mr Vernon, yo'm a very saft mon.

The Black Country flag has nothing to do with slavery, it is about celebrating the industries which put this region at the forefront of the Industrial Revolution.

Mr Vernon says the Black Country glosses over its role in the slave trade. But slavery in Britain ended in 1807, and it seems absurd that Mr Vernon expects us to feel apologetic for the fact that in another century people in other countries used our chain for nefarious purposes.

Perhaps Mr Vernon has been in London for too long.

Down in the great metropolis, they're obsessed with diversity and multiculturalism, emphasising what makes us different.

But in the Black Country, there is no diversity, and only one culture. Black, white, rich or poor, it doh matter, because under the skin we'm all Black Country - we're all links in the Black Country chain, and that bond is far stronger than anything that might divide us.

Hope yo 'ad a bostin' Black Country Day.

■■■■

A FEW weeks ago, I wrote about the "knock-off early" culture which seems to affect many of our retailers, where staff take it upon themselves to shut their doors several minutes before closing time to avoid any risk that some of them might have to work a few minutes over.

Well here's a turn-up for the books.

On Monday, having just returned from a weekend away, it was more in hope than expectation that I battled the rush-hour traffic to get to my local tyre centre before closing time.

I didn't seriously expect anybody to help, but one of the fitters volunteered to work over. Arron Page, of Kingswinford Tyres, yo'm a proper Black Country bloke.



Melody when she appeared on The Apprentice



Melody speaking at the New European Awards



Melody Hossaini on a visit to City College, Plymouth

# How Melody tuned into career success

She may have been fired from The Apprentice but this social entrepreneur has just won top award, writes Marion Brennan

**WHEN Melody Hossaini was asked what job title she wanted to pop up on screen under her name when she appeared on the 2011 series of The Apprentice, she replied 'social entrepreneur'.**

"The producer laughed," she recalls. But the former Great Wyrley High School student insisted on the tagline, becoming the show's first - and only - social entrepreneur, the title given to people who apply commercial strategies to make social improvements.

She was knocked out just before the final but not before making a big impact. Bold, confident and good-looking, she became famous for her inspirational quote 'Don't tell me the sky's the limit when there are footprints on the moon' - which one fan had tattooed on his arm.

## Responsible

Lord Sugar branded her 'ruthless' and 'a tiger' so it was perhaps odd that she did not channel her undoubted business acumen into more obvious money-spinning schemes.

But she says: "Social enterprises are doing well. New statistics have been published that show they are now doing better than the commercial business model, contributing a lot to the economy and creating many jobs for people.

"The world is moving that way, we are being more responsible consumers. We like to buy in a way that helps someone and there are lots of examples of little pockets of success."

Melody, now 30, is in the news again after being named Europe's Most Influential Woman of 2015 at a ceremony in Brussels.

The awards, under the patronage of the European Parliament, recognise the contri-



Melody goes into schools and colleges to help prepare students for the business world

butions of Europeans with a migrant background. Meeting the qualifying criteria was no problem after being born in war-torn Iran and escaping with her family to Sweden before arriving in South Staffordshire at the age of 13 with her mother and sister.

It was while sitting at her bedroom desk at the family's Station Road home that she spied an advert in Just 17 magazine for young people wanted as community ambassadors.

It led to 11 years of volunteering, including two and a half years serving on the Youth Parliament where she ran climate change campaigns and went to 10 Downing Street to speak to Tony Blair about the war in Iraq.

She says: "We were shaking things up, it

wasn't just me. It was an incredible time. I'm still friends with these people."

She went on to set up the successful social enterprise, InspirEngage International, in 2009 with the aim of training people to succeed by giving back.

She goes into schools and colleges, including Great Wyrley High, to help prepare students for the world of business and work, trains vulnerable women to become economically active through social enterprise and guides corporations to better engage with their local communities.

She said: "This award means a lot to me because of what it represents. So much negative stuff is said about immigrants and asylum

seekers, and I was both of those things.

"The public thinks of them as anonymous people, but they are people like me who have worked hard to give back to their communities. I want to shift people's mindsets about immigrants.

"I'd like them to think that perhaps they shouldn't take a blanket approach.

"Being an immigrant never leaves you, and that's not to say that I don't feel I belong here. I'm married now with a nine-month-old son and a home in Warwickshire. I'm very much settled, but being an immigrant is so much a part of my make-up."

The law graduate, who speaks five languages, describes herself as an 'accidental entrepreneur' who avoided business studies at school. She entered the business arena only as a means of making a living out of her real interest, 'making a difference'.

Her passion for her work has increased since the birth of her son Kian, although she is learning the art of balance, she says.

"I work from home a lot so I can spend as much time as possible with him. I cook and put Kian to bed.

## Judge

"We find a way because I love my job and I think it will help my son by immersing him in the world I work in. I can't wait for his life to be enriched by the job I do. I'll take him with me as soon as he can walk."

She and businessman Claude Littner, who is taking over from Nick Hewer as one of Lord Sugar's screen sidekicks, were recently judges on a social enterprise challenge, she says.

"They are filming the next series at the moment. He will be a fitting successor to Nick. Despite his screen reputation, he is kind and friendly, a wonderful spirit."

The keen blogger, who regularly reports on the programme for a national newspaper, is looking forward to its return.

She looks back on her time on The Apprentice as a valuable experience and, no, she doesn't cringe when she is reminded of the infamous 'footsteps' quote which she suggests was 'overused' on the show.

She says: "At that point all those years ago that saying inspired me, and you take inspiration where you find it."

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# Watch revamped town centre slip back

HAVING just returned from my weekly Thursday shopping trip to Dudley I am impressed with the ongoing, if seemingly endless, work in the Market Place.

The covers are now off the fountain and it does look magnificent, I think, when the waters starts to flow it will once again be the centrepiece off the town. The statue of Duncan Edwards on its new plinth, now located in the picnic area, also looks great.

The paved and cobbled walkways illuminated by the new street lighting, along with the nicely designed seating and waste bins, all enhance the town centre and when the new arcade of trees is put into place Dudley will have a town centre to be proud of – regardless of the fact that the majority of premises on the High Street are charity, betting, fast food or discount shops.

I believe with a little thought the council could have saved a great deal of money on this project. Firstly, the market stalls and canopy seem to be superfluous as the stall holders prefer

selling from trestle tables, upturned crates, cardboard boxes or even the wooden bollards in the pedestrian areas leaving the centre stalls empty.

Saving could still be made with a little forward thinking. If the trees in the planned arcade were acacia trees, some traders could hang their wares from the branches. With the re-emergence of A-boards exalting shops in the Fountain Arcade and stalls in the indoor market, we will back to as before but with better seating.

J H LONG  
Dudley

## It's time for sponsors on the BBC

GEORGE Osborne is loading the £650m that the Government normally pay for free TV licences for the pensioners over 75 onto the BBC. This could mean the BBC losing one of its channels.

Now I know that the BBC cannot advertise but surely, in this day and age, they ought to be allowed to have companies sponsor their programmes like they do on commercial channels. They wouldn't have to have commercial breaks. I don't think anyone would object and it would bring in revenue. It may also be able to reduce the licence fee if they did this.

The Government could also do a lot more to get the TV licence revenue in from non-payers. They must lose out by millions every year by people not paying the TV licence. On the other hand, there must be room to cut back on some of the newscasters that the BBC use.

B WHITEHOUSE  
Kingswinford

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

### EMAIL

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## Going in circles over public transport

HOW is it that Dudley councillors have no sense of shame for their odd behaviour? First, they keep express and local trains off their very own railway line for 50 years. This is the Black Country ICE (Intercity Express) Line that runs alongside commuter-congested main roads from Stourbridge to the tourist attractions at Castle Hill.

Then they announced that they were going to allow a shuttle service by a still-to-be-developed Very Light Railcar on one mile of their 13-mile Black Country Line to shuttle passengers to the next intercity express line in their neighbouring borough of Sandwell. Not to run their own smart, sleek ICE trains, mind you. The second track, for one mile, will be a test track for this university project. Elsewhere in Dudley is a much more suitable site for the Warwick Manufacturing Group to develop the Very Light Railcar.

However, the stupidity is now capped by their intention to put a speedway stadium on Halesowen's farmland and Green Belt. Even more greenhouse gases from motorbikes racing round in circles to further mess up our climate.

Can these councillors' behaviour get anymore weird and wonderful?

T WELLER  
Halesowen

## Customers paying for bank flaws

RE Bank closure at Gornal. Barclays Bank denotes 2008 as the year that the alleged 50 percent decline in usage began. I remember 2008 as the year of crisis for the banks, as in the intervening period we have found out how business was conducted.

They knew the price of everything – even fixing it at times – and the value of nothing. Now Barclays customers in Gornal are to pay the price for the bank's misdeeds of the past.

They know the price of keeping Barclays presence in Gornal, but the value to the people counts for nothing. The recent leaflet and statement have the whiff of 1984 about them, such as 'the changes to Lower Gornal', 'your feedback creates a bank in the best interests of all', 'you can talk to us'. Talk about doublespeak. George Orwell is alive and well!

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More than 3,000 women of all generations ran, walked and jogged at Himley Hall to raise funds



Cancer we're coming to get you says this competitor's T-shirt



Sarah Trevis, of Dudley, taking part in Race for Life, at Himley Hall, near Dudley

# Pink stars raise £100k

**THOUSANDS** of women were pretty in pink as they took to their heels to remember loved and raise more than **£100,000** — despite a downpour.

A sea of pink descended on Himley Hall as women of all generations ran, walked and jogged around the historic estate in aid of Cancer Research UK.

Race for Life has become a regular feature across the region. There were two events at the estate on Sunday with more than 3,000 taking

part, watched by friends and family who encouraged them on despite the rain.

Dee Smith from Wordsley was running in memory of her mother Joan who died from cancer. She said: "It is my first time running. Cancer affects so many people so I wanted to do my bit. The weather hasn't been so great, but it's all a bit of fun for a very worthy cause."

Her friend Wendy Marsh, of Gornal, added: "I've come out to support all those who have lost loved ones to cancer. I'm fortunate enough for it not to have affected my family but I wanted to do my bit."

"Everyone is in great spirits and it is a wonderful day regardless of the weather."

Michelle Green from Kingswinford, who helped organise the Stourbridge Stars group of 30 women from across the Black Country, said: "The atmosphere here is amazing. There such a feel good feeling about the place. Everyone encourages each other and we all pull together to complete it. It really is worth taking part and all the money raised is for an important cause."

Tracey Duffy, Cancer Research UK's West Midlands events manager, said she hoped the event would raise £105,000.



On the run, some of the 3,000 Race for Life competitors in action on Sunday

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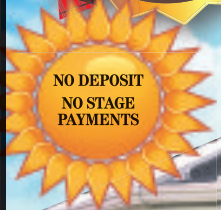
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# Party time for 56th birthday

Penn TG

THE meeting in May was a social evening to celebrate the guild's 56th birthday. Everyone enjoyed savouries and party cakes.

Social Studies was an open meeting to hear Geoff Tristram, author, artist, designer and comedy writer give a talk about his career.

He always wanted to be an artist and one of his first projects was to make a plywood sheep for his school nativity. He attended Tipton Grammar School and then Wolverhampton College of Art. His designs include labels for food containers, cards for every occasion and jigsaw puzzles.

In June, Phil Griffiths gave a very informative talk on British coinage. His interest began before decimalisation when he tried to collect old pennies from every year, but didn't manage one from 1931.

Coins were first used in 550BC, gold and silver was found in streams and made into beads and used for bartering. Small silver pennies were used for 500 years. Coins were used for paying taxes and land deals, while 973 saw the start of the Royal Mint.

The Gardening Group visited Wollerton Old Hall, followed by an excellent cream tea. Social Studies speaker was Alan Rose showing slides on comic and humorous inn signs.

On July 22, there is a strawberry supper with the Penn Poets.

Meetings are at Penn United Community Hall, Penn Road at 7.15pm.

# Donation made to centre for homeless



Carol Fox, of SIFA Fireside, receives the cheque from Ann and Ray Staniland

SANDWELL Lions Club's sixth anniversary dinner at Brambles was a success. There were Lions from 11 other Lions Club who attended.

Two Sandwell members visited SIFA Fireside in Digbeth which is a centre for the homeless. Rough sleepers can have breakfast and lunch and also use the facilities to do their laundry, socialise and receive medical care. A donation of £400, made up of a £300 donation and £100 raised through a raffle, was made to them.

A camping weekend was organised for the weekend of June 20 at Wolverley and a

## Sandwell Lions Club

treasure hunt was being organised for July 12 in Romsley.

The club is searching for a new home to store Santa's sleigh and would welcome any offers of a driveway, corner, side of house if anyone can help.

Anyone wishing to attend a meeting is asked to come along to St Huberts Church Hall, Clent Road, Oldbury on the first or third Tuesday of the month at 8pm.

# Silence over member's death

## Wollaston E TWG

memories of her mother. Ann McKenzie, on members' behalf, thanked the committee for its hard work to make the 50th birthday celebration a success.

The meeting continued with the usual business, and reports from sub-sections, followed by correspondence.

There were boards in circulation for members interested in attending the national carol service, the

Federation lunch in Stourbridge, the harvest lunch in Wollaston in October, the race day in Wollaston in July and the guild's own strawberry tea, when donations will be taken in aid of Macmillan nurses.

Speaker David Hickman gave an enjoyable illustrated talk on old Stourbridge. Raffle prizes went to Joy Cook and Ann Foxall. Joy also won the competition.

Refreshments were in the capable hands of Ann Powell and Ann Foxall.

# Action call over price of parking at hospital

INCREASES in parking charges at Russells Hall Hospital have prompted calls for Government intervention.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin spoke out after parking charges at Russells Hall hospital went up by half for a half an hour stay.

Bosses have defended the decision saying running and maintenance costs meant the rise was needed following a two year price freeze.

Parking for up to 30 minutes now costs £1.50 up from £1, an hour costs £2.60 up from £2 and three hours is up to £4.60 from £4. Long stay parking for up to 24 hours has risen by just 10p and now costs £5.60.

Mr Austin said: "Lots of people in Dudley have got in touch with me to say how frustrating it is to have to spend so much on parking when going to the hospital for an appointment or to visit loved ones.

## Vulnerable

"These fees often hit vulnerable people at a time when they may already be facing a fall in their income, and I want them cut. The Government needs to take a hands-on approach to tackle this issue so I'll keep pushing for action."

# Bids reached £1k for movie idol love letters



Movie star Errol Flynn — auction house sold letters sent to a local girl just before he went to Hollywood

LOVE letters written by Hollywood star Errol Flynn fetched £1,000 at auction in Stourbridge.

The five letters from the future screen legend and notorious playboy were intended to woo Marjorie Bickham, a girl he met while performing at the Malvern Festival in 1934.

The letters, kept by Marjorie's great niece, were expected to sell for around £600 at Fieldings Auctioneers, but a bidding war increased the final amount.

Judith Woolger, accounts manager, said: "We had three people on the day who were really keen. We even had an internet bidder from the States. But it eventually sold in the room and the person was very happy."

"We always put an estimate on, as things like this can be hard to value, but all it needs on the day is two or more people interested and it can really increase, which is what happened in this case."

The letters were sent during Australia-born Flynn's days as a struggling repertory actor. He was at Birmingham Rep at the time, having yet to make his mark in Hollywood with such films as The Adventures of Robin Hood.

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# Blunder by boater sees stretch of canal drained



The canal at Wordsley, which bosses think was accidentally drained by a member of the boating public

**A 400ft stretch of canal in Wordsley was accidentally drained by a boater who failed to close a lock gate properly.**

A team from the Canal & River Trust was called out to raise water levels by the Red House Glass Cone at Wordsley.

The stretch of canal, which at the deepest part would be about 6ft, had to be completely refilled before it could be re-opened last Thursday.

Officials have ruled out vandalism

and instead suspect that a boater who was using the lock gate left open one of the paddles that control the level of the water. This caused hundreds of gallons of water to drain out of the affected area.

### Levels

It took several hours for water levels to return to normal along the stretch of the Stourbridge Canal between locks 12 and 13.

Sarah Rudy, from the Canal & River Trust, said: "At the moment we don't think that the locks have been vandalised, rather that one of the lock gate

paddles, which help control the water levels on the canal and act a bit like a plug, was left open by a boater passing through the lock.

"We fill the canal back up with water by moving water from other parts of the canal. We do this by opening up the lock gate paddles further up from where the canal is drained, this then naturally flows downstream."

Canals in the Black Country have been targeted by vandals. Last month they drained a two-mile stretch of the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal in Wolverhampton when they opened all 21 of its paddle locks.

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# 14 Geopark bid is perfectly natural move

Stourbridge Chronicle Thursday, July 16, 2015



Borough geologist Graham Worton, warden Rob Earnshaw and Councillor Khurshid Ahmed back the bid

THE Black Country is bursting with geological wonders and a new bid has been launched to have its special status recognised around the globe.

If successful, the Black Country will be granted Global Geopark status. It would join a network of stunning places of natural beauty, encompassing locations in countries worldwide.

Dudley tourism chief Councillor Khurshid Ahmed says the Black Country deserves this recognition for its distinct limestone legacy and its industrial and cultural heritage.

He explained: "The Black Country tells an incredible story of vast changes in our planet over 428 million years and has a huge range of special

features that are unrivalled anywhere else in the world. We want everyone to appreciate just how important our industrial, geological and cultural heritage is. Our geopark bid will be submitted later in the year."

Places highlighted in the bid include Dudley's Wren's Nest National Nature Reserve.

# Cycle track revamp at the home of champions

FOR more than 60 years Halesowen's Manor Abbey Stadium has been at the centre of sporting excellence.

Built by an army of volunteers and funded by local businessmen after the Second World War, it has been home to some of the nation's greatest cyclists.

Now the velodrome has had a £180,000 revamp.

New perimeter fencing and floodlights have been installed as well as repairs to the track surface at the stadium owned by Halesowen Athletic and Cycling Club.

More than 50 riders took part in the Dudley Grand Prix at the Manor Way site on Sunday as the stadium was officially re-opened after the improvements.

Around 300 spectators watched the day's cycling and a string of invited guests of honour were among those to join club officials. They included Mayor of Dudley Councillor Steve Waltho, Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris, and former top



Mayor Steve Waltho with manager Dave Viner and champion Walter Fowler

riders such as Graham Rees, Bernard Higginson and World Masters Champion Walter Fowler, aged 81, of Kinver.

Also attending was Dave Arris who was one of the original volunteers who dug the foundations of the track in the 1940s.

David Viner, chairman of the club's cycling section, said: "It has been a fantastic day for the club."

"The fencing was in such a state it would not be up to health and safety standards. It now looks far better and is durable. I think we would have had to close down without it. The floodlighting is much better and so is the track surface."

"A lot of the new tracks are indoor velodromes while the Halesowen track is like what track racing used to be like over the last 100 years."

"Our track is the only one in the whole UK which is owned by the club itself. And we have to thank all those people who rolled up their sleeves and had the vision after the war."

"I want to connect the young generation with the older ones to show what they went on to achieve. It is a great facility and we want more children to use it."

The club has around 1,000 members across cycling, athletics, weightlifting, and tennis. It helped develop world class cyclists such as Olympic team members Jess Varnish and Helen Scott and 2014 elite mountain bike series winner Beth Crompton. Visit [www.halesowencycling.net](http://www.halesowencycling.net).

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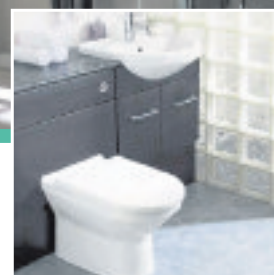
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## Celebrating pride of the Black Country



Stourbridge glassblower Robert Merlyn demonstrates his skills as part of the Black Country celebrations

HIP, hip hooray for Black Country Day as the area's capital, Dudley, this week joined in the annual knees up to show pride and passion in our home area.

Thousands have already taken part in celebrations held in town squares, community centres and the local pub for the Black Country Festival.

The festival marks a month-long celebration bringing together all the events planned under one umbrella during July.

Black Country Festival chairman, and one of its founders, Steve Edwards, said: "People often ask me where the heart of the Black Country is. My re-

sponse is always the same, "The heart of the Black Country is beating in the chest of every mon, woman and babbie that are Black Country and proud."

From sampling pork scratchings with a pint of ale or flying the flag with pride listening to the Black Country Anthem - there was lots to see and do over the weekend and events are continuing across the month.

### Musicians

Swathes of visitors soaked up the sun for the flagship event of the Black Country Festival in Dudley on Saturday. The scene was Stone Street

Square where musicians, glass-blowers, dancers, stall-holders and Black Country Mon dressed as a superhero, put people in the carnival mood.

Hundreds gathered in Cradley Heath to mark the 2015 Chainmakers Festival on Sunday.

The TUC and Sandwell Council-led event saw market stalls, fairground rides, live music, dance and speeches.

There were also large crowds in Wall Heath on Saturday. The village's summer fair looked at how villagers interacted with Black Country life, and more than 1,000 people flocked to the Gornal Fun Day.

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# Living in a box — to raise awareness

**TWO workers at Tesco in Stourbridge have been spending 50 hours inside a see-through box to raise cash for charity.**

Jayne Budd and Sammi Potter began their solitary confinement inside the box on Thursday, where the pair had been locked up to raise awareness of autism.

Sammi, aged 23, who works alongside Jayne in the Crown Centre store, said: "After the initial adrenalin rush of going into the box, time can begin to drag. At least I have someone to chat to.

"The box is just three by two metres, so Jayne and I are living in each other's pockets for the duration of the challenge.

"Although we get on very well and we have a lot in common, I don't know how we will react when we can't escape one another's company.

"I'm hoping that we will encourage each other to succeed."

Sammi, who has worked at the store for around five years, said that despite it being a 24-hour store she was not worried about sleeping in the box.

However, she will miss watching television, listening to music, playing sport, seeing her friends and visiting her two nieces.

She added: "I can sleep anywhere. I'm out like a light irrespective of the light and the noise around me.

"It's going to be strange not being able to do normal, everyday things.

## Challenge

"My family and friends have all been 100 per cent behind me."

They both decided to take part in the 'Locked in for Autism' campaign after an appeal for volunteers was made in the store.

Both of the workmates will also be raising cash for children's charity Caudwell Children, which supports children with the autism.

A team from Caudwell Children will be on hand each day to explain to curious shoppers the challenges faced by children living with the condition.

Andy Bailey, from Caudwell Children, said: "Autism is the most prevalent disability in the country and 133,500 children have been diagnosed with the condition in the UK."

Donations can be made by visiting [www.justgiving.com/Sammi-and-Jayne](http://www.justgiving.com/Sammi-and-Jayne)



Jayne Budd and Sam Potter in a plastic box at the Tesco Store in Stourbridge for Caudwell Children

# Traders angry over High Street closure lasting two months

PART of Cradley Heath High Street will be closed for almost two months to allow for £100,000 gas works to be carried out.

Shop owners have reacted angrily to the news that a stretch of the busy road, between St Anne's Road and the West Bromwich Building Society, will be shut to drivers from August 19. They say the closure will have a major impact on trade and claim they were not told about the work until very recently.

Roy Chumber, owner of Cradley Heath DIY, said: "No-body had told me and I have been here 30 years.

"I am angry because they should notify us before agreeing to the repairs. I pay nearly £900 each month in rent.

"This will have a huge impact on us. A lot of my trade is people that drive up and carry a lot of heavy items out to their car. How can they expect to get their items if the road is closed?"

## Concerned

Rajesh Sethi, manager of the Ransons discount store, added: "This is absolutely going to have a great impact on the shops in this area.

"Many of the people who come into the shop are just passing through. If the road is closed, who will come down this part of the road? There will be nobody here. I am very concerned."

The closure, which will be in place until October 10, is one of four in the town centre to run consecutively while National Grid digs up the road to replace a gas main.

# Open date for estate parkland is put back

**AN opening date for restored parkland surrounding Hagley Hall has been revised.**

Lord Cobham, who owns the estate, had hoped to reopen Hagley Park for the first time in three decades during the summer season of 2016.

But he admitted that by the time work is finalised on a new visitor centre and other park renovations, 2017 was a more realistic prospect.

"I did want it to open by 2016 as that is what I had aimed for, but I think if we are being realistic it will open for the 2017 season now," he said.

"Work is progressing well and we have the visitor centre which is coming up next."

Work will start next month on a £2.5 million pound project to create the visitor centre within the 350 acre estate near Stourbridge.

Final discussions are taking place with contractors ahead of the start of works for the centre on land off the A456 opposite the Badgers Sett pub.

It is expected that work on the visitor centre will take around six months to complete.

Once open, it will be the main arrival entrance for people coming to the picturesque parkland.

The centre will be served a new link roadway being constructed off the dual carriageway.

## Restaurant

It will incorporate education and history exhibitions showcasing Hagley Hall and Park through the decades inside study areas for visiting schoolchildren.

There will also be a restaurant, gift shop and outdoor seating area for visitors to gaze over the rolling hills of the parkland.

Accommodation for a ranger is also part of the plans alongside a children's play area.

Lord Cobham said: "We are pleased to have got to



Lord Cobham — Realistic

this point and I can wait for work to get started."

It is hoped that up to 100,000 visitors a year would come to visit the reopened park surrounding the 18th century manor house.

Christopher Lyttelton, the 12th Viscount Cobham, said visitors were vital to help pay towards the upkeep of the house and parkland.

But he hopes that park would prove a popular visitor attraction like Shugborough Hall, near Stafford, and the Severn Valley Railway.

Extensive restoration projects are already under way to return many of the parks original features to their former glory.

Over recent months the ornate casades, waterfalls and pools have been painstakingly cleared and rebuilt.

Pathways which once led walkers on picturesque routes through the park have also been re-marked and relaid as part of the major scheme.

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## Survey says we should go it alone



Raising a glass to the Black Country — Sarah Nixon at the Duke William pub in Stourbridge during its beer festival

COUNCILS in the Black Country should go it alone and reject plans to link up with Birmingham, according to hundreds of people who took part in an Express & Star survey.

The Your Black Country questionnaire in The Chronicle's sister daily newspaper also revealed that the majority of residents still feel proud to live in the region.

Though they were concerned that the area was often overlooked when it came to investment, it was felt that the Black Country will still be remembered in 30 years time.

Readers were also asked if they liked

the idea of a Black Country mayor — and Carl Chinn was named as the favourite for the post, with 45 per cent, finishing ahead of rock legend Robert Plant.

Mr Chinn revealed that he would consider taking up the role if one was ever devised. He added: "If people thought I could do it I would have to give it serious thought."

Council leaders across the Black Country, Birmingham and Solihull met earlier this month to set out their bid to the Government for devolved powers to oversee transport spending, skills and attracting investment.

But some 60 per cent of readers were against the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA), and 55.7 per cent said the Black Country councils should unite and go it alone without Birmingham.

The phrase 'Greater Birmingham' appeared regularly in comments people had made on their survey forms, as they fear the Black Country will lose its identity under that name. But that title has already been rejected by council leaders in favour of WMCA.

In other results from the survey, 77.9 per cent said that they were proud to live in the Black Country.

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# New centre named after British hero of Holocaust



King Edward VI College Principal Sharon Phillips, incoming principal Remley Mann, Ernest Ruppel and biographer Michael Smith from Henley at the opening of the centre named in honour of Frank Foley, who rescued thousands

## HE risked his own life to save thousands of Jews from the horrors of Nazi Germany.

Black Country students have chosen to honour Major Frank Foley by naming their new £3.5 million performing arts centre after him.

The Frank Foley Building has been opened at King Edward VI College in Stourbridge – the town he called home following the Second World War. Dubbed the 'British Schindler', the passport officer in Britain's Berlin embassy hid escapees in his home during the '30s and bent rules to provide passports and visas so they could escape.

Students had chosen to dedicate the building, which has dance and drama studios, canteen and a graphics suite, to Major Foley after holding a vote.

At the opening, his biographer Michael Smith gave a speech about the former passport officer's life. College spokeswoman Natasha Winter said: "He was a man who helped 10,000 Jews escape from Nazi Germany and he risked his own life to do so."

Dudley North MP Ian Austin, who has called for a Black Country memorial to the hero who died in Stourbridge in 1958, attended with Ernest Ruppel, of Bewdley, whose family were helped by Major Foley.



Hero — Frank Foley, of Stourbridge

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## Middle of Nowhere Festival



**Fri - Sun**  
**Lower Drayton Farm, Penkridge**  
 This festival of rock, blues and folk music promises to be a fun event for the whole family. The line-up is led by Bon Jovi tribute band Bon Giovi (pictured).  
 Visit [www.monmusicfestival.co.uk](http://www.monmusicfestival.co.uk)

## Neil Diamond



**Saturday, 8pm**  
**Genting Arena, B'ham**  
 Legendary songwriter and singer Neil Diamond plays in Birmingham tomorrow night. This show follows a performance in the city last weekend which wowed fans.  
 Visit [www.gentingarena.co.uk](http://www.gentingarena.co.uk)

## Camel: Greatest Hits



**Thursday, 8pm**  
**Civic Hall, W'ton**  
 Original member Andy Latimer will be joined by long time band member, Col-in Bass and Denis Clement (drums), Guy LeBlanc (keyboards) to celebrate seminal rockers Camel.  
 Visit [www.wolvescivic.co.uk](http://www.wolvescivic.co.uk)

## Alex Horne



**Friday, 8pm**  
**Gatehouse Theatre, Stafford**  
 Nominated for Best Show at the 2014 Foster's Edinburgh Comedy Awards, and Winner of the Chortle Award for Innovation 2015, Alex Horne brings his show to Stafford.  
[www.staffordgatehousetheatre.co.uk](http://www.staffordgatehousetheatre.co.uk)

## FESTIVALS

**Middle of Nowhere Festival**  
 Fri - Sun, £8 - £40  
 Lower Drayton Farm, Penkridge.  
 Call 07817 691352

## ROCK & POP

**Neil Diamond**  
 Sat at 8pm, £73.83 - £96.33  
 Genting Arena, Birmingham, B40 1NT.  
 Call 0121 780 4141

**Jean Genie**  
 Sat at 7.30pm, £12.50 - £15  
 The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.  
 Call 01902 401211

**Gehtika plus Destroyed Beyond**  
 Sat at 7pm, £6.60  
 Wolverhampton Slade Rooms, WV1 1HP.  
 Call 01902 552106

**Fred Zeppelin + Quo Motion**  
 Fri at 7.30pm, £10 - £12  
 The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.  
 Call 01902 401211

**Morpheus Rising + Hi-On Maiden**  
 Sun at 7.30pm, £10 - £12  
 The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.  
 Call 01902 401211

**The Smyths: The Smiths Tribute**  
 Fri at 7.30pm, £10  
 The River Rooms, Stourbridge, DY8 1JN.  
 Call 01384 397177

**Jake Quickenden**  
 Sat at 7pm, £15  
 O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB.  
 Call 0121 622 8250

**Camel**  
 Thu at 8pm, £27.50 - £33  
 Wolverhampton Civic Hall, WV1 1RQ.  
 Call 0870 320 7000

**Fell Out Boy: Fall Out Boy Tribute**  
 Thu at 7pm, £6  
 Wolverhampton Civic Hall, WV1 1RQ.  
 Call 0870 320 7000

**Bars And Melody**  
 Wed at 8pm, £20  
 Wolverhampton Civic Hall, Wolverhampton, WV1 1RQ.  
 Call 0870 320 7000

**Nicholas McDonald**  
 Mon at 7pm - 10pm, £18 - £25  
 The Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY.  
 Call 0121 643 0428

**The Hot Heads**  
 Sat - Sun at 8pm - 2am, £6  
 Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ.  
 Call 0844 870 0000

**Duran Duran Experience: Duran Duran Tribute**  
 Sat at 7.30pm, £8  
 The River Rooms, Stourbridge, DY8 1JN.  
 Call 01384 397177

**Beres Hammond & Bunny Wailer**  
 Sat at 9pm, £35 - £37.50  
 O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB.  
 Call 0121 622 8250

**Larry Miller**  
 Thu at 7.30pm, £12  
 The River Rooms, Stourbridge, DY8 1JN.  
 Call 01384 397177

## FOLK & ACOUSTIC

**Three Blind Mice**  
 Sat at 12am,  
 Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge, DY8 3TB.  
 Call 01384 374410

**Traditional Music Sessions**  
 Sun at 8pm,  
 Prince Of Wales, Moseley, Birmingham, B13 8EE.

**Irish Session**  
 Wed at 8pm, Free  
 Katie Fitzgerald's, Wollaston, Stourbridge, DY8 3TB.  
 Call 01384 374410

**Common Folk: Singers' Night**  
 Fri at 7.30pm, £1  
 Pelsall Cricket & Sports Club, Walsall, WS3 4BP.  
 Call 01922 682018

**Country Music Nights**  
 Sun at 8.15pm, £2  
 Swan With Two Necks, Longdon, WS15 4PN.  
 Call 01543 491570

**Bev Pegg**  
 Fri at 8.30pm, £6 - £7  
 Ashwood Marina Ltd, Ashwood Marina, Kingswinford, DY6 0AQ.  
 Call 01384 560462

**Gren Bartley**  
 Sat at 8pm, £8 - £10  
 Artrix, Bromsgrove, B61 1PQ.  
 Call 01527 577330

## JAZZ & BLUES

**Lil' Jimmy Reed Band**  
 Wed at 7.30pm, £14 - £15  
 The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.  
 Call 01902 401211

**Jazzline presents...Three Step Manoeuvre**  
 Tue, 7.30pm  
 The Jam House, Birmingham, B31QU.  
 Call 0121 200 3030

**The Foundations**  
 Thu, 7.30pm  
 The Jam House, Birmingham, B31QU.  
 Call 0121 200 3030

**Jazzlines Free Gigs: Sam Braysher Quartet**  
 Friday, 5pm. Free  
 Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA.  
 Call 0121 780 3333

**Jazz In The Courtyard**  
 Sun at 4.30pm, Free  
 Light House, Wolverhampton, WV1 1HT.  
 Call 01902 716055

## CLASSICAL & OTHER MUSIC

**Andre Rieu's 2015 Maastricht Concert Screening**  
 Sat at 7pm, £16 - £18  
 Artrix, Bromsgrove, B61 1PQ.  
 Call 01527 577330

**Stafford Gatehouse, ST16 2LT.**  
 Sat at 7pm, £16 - £18  
 Call 01785 619080

**A Song for all Seasons**  
 Sat at 7.30pm, £10  
 Beckminster Methodist Church, Birches Barn Road, Wolverhampton, WV3 7BQ.  
 Call 01902 344910

**RSC Live: Merchant of Venice**  
 Wed at 7pm,  
 Electric Cinema, 47-49 Station Street, Birmingham, B5 4DY.  
 Call 0121 643 7879

**Wed at 7pm,**  
 Light House, Fryer Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1HT.  
 Call 01902 716055

**Wed at 7pm,**  
 Artrix, Slideslow Drive, Artrix, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, B61 1PQ.  
 Call 01527 577330

**CBSO Summer Concert**  
 Thursday, 7.30pm, £12.50 - £44  
 Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA.  
 Call 0121 780 3333

**Let's Celebrate: Sutton Coldfield Choirs**  
 Sat at 7.30pm, £8 - £11  
 Birmingham Conservatoire, Birmingham City University, B3 3HG.  
 Call 0121 331 5901

## THEATRE

**Barnum**  
 Fri, Sat, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu at 7.30pm, Wed at 2pm, Sat at 2.30pm, £19.50 - £48.50  
 Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB.  
 Call 0844 338 5000

**Aliens Love Underpants**  
 Wed at 2pm, 2.30pm, Thu at 11am, 2pm, £10.50 - £13.50  
 Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE.  
 Call 01902 573320

**An Evening of Dirty Dancing**  
 Fri at 7.30pm, £18 - £24.90  
 Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 1AP. Call 0844 871 7627

**The Jungle Book**  
 Fri, Sat at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm, £10 - £12  
 Palace Theatre, Redditch, B98 8AE. Call 01527 65203

**Cyrano de Bergerac**  
 Tue, Wed at 7pm - 9.30pm, £6 - £12.50  
 Selly Manor Museum, Bournville, Birmingham, B30 1UB. Call 0121 472 0199

**Girls Like That**  
 Fri, Sat at 7.45pm, Sat at 2pm, £10.50  
 The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham, B16 8AE.  
 Call 0121 643 5858

**Entertaining Angels: Lichfield Players**  
 Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 7.30pm, £9 - £12  
 Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.  
 Call 01543 412121

**Much Ado About Nothing**  
 Sun at 7.30pm - 9.30pm, £12 - £15  
 mac, Cannon Hill Road, Birmingham, B12 9QH.  
 Call 0121 446 3232

**Oddsocks: Twelfth Night**  
 Sat at 7.30pm - 9.30pm, £12 - £50  
 mac, Cannon Hill Road, Birmingham, B12 9QH.  
 Call 0121 446 3232

**Pongo's Party**  
 Sun at 11am, 1.30pm, £10.50 - £36  
 Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.  
 Call 01543 412121

**Forever In Blue Jeans**  
 Thu at 7.30pm, £19.50  
 Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.  
 Call 01543 412121

**A Midsummer Night's Dream**  
 Thu at 7.30pm, £10 - £14  
 The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham, B16 8AE.  
 Call 0121 643 5858

## COMEDY

**Comedy Carousel**  
 Thu at 7pm, £5 - £19.50  
 The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD.  
 Call 0871 472 0400

**The Best in Live Stand-Up Comedy**  
 Fri, Sat at 7pm, £5 - £18.50  
 The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD.  
 Call 0871 472 0400

**Alex Horne**  
 Fri at 8pm, £15.50  
 Stafford Gatehouse, ST16 2LT.  
 Call 01785 619080

## OPEN MICS

**Sunday Shenanigans - Open Mic night**  
 Sun at 8pm - 12pm, Free  
 Moochers, Stourbridge, DY8 1PH. Call 01384 671141

**Open Mic Night**  
 Mon at 8.30pm, Free  
 Katie Fitzgerald's, Wollaston, Stourbridge, DY8 3TB. Call 01384 374410

## ART GALLERIES

**Takehisa Kosugi**  
 Wed, Thu at 11am - 6pm, Free  
 Ikon Gallery, Birmingham, B1 2HS. Call 0121 248 0708

**St Ives Artists**  
 Fri, Sat, Sun, Wed, Thu at 10am - 5pm, Sun at 12pm - 4pm, Free  
 The New Art Gallery Walsall, WS2 8LG.  
 Call 01922 654400

**Birmingham People**  
 Sat, Sun, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu at 10am - 5pm, Fri at 10.30am - 5pm, Free  
 Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, B3 3DH.  
 Call 0121 303 1966

**Pop in Space**  
 Sat at 10am - 5pm, Sat at 10.30am - 4.30pm, Free  
 Wolverhampton Art Gallery, WV1 1DU.  
 Call 01902 552055

**Georgian Enamels**  
 Fri, Sat, Sun, Tue, Wed, Thu at 11am - 5pm, Free  
 Bantock House, Wolverhampton, WV3 9LQ.  
 Call 01902 552195

**The Clive Beardsmore Gift**  
 Fri, Sat, Tue, Wed, Thu at 10am - 5pm, Sun at 12pm - 4pm, Free  
 The New Art Gallery Walsall, WS2 8LG. Call 01922 654400

**Happy Birthday, Scottish National Gallery Of Modern Art!**  
 Tue at 10.15am - 3.30pm, Wed at 10.15am - 3.30pm, Thu at 10.15am - 3.30pm, £1.50  
 Birmingham Back to Backs, 55-63 Hurst Street / 50-54 Inge Street, Birmingham, B5 4TE.  
 Call 0121 666 7671

## OTHER EVENTS

**Murder Mystery Dinner**  
 Sat at 7.15pm, £32.95  
 The Shugborough Estate, near Stafford, ST17 0XB.  
 Call 01889 881388

**Antiques For Everyone**  
 Thu at 11am - 5pm, £12  
 The NEC Birmingham, B40 1NT.  
 Call 0121 780 4141

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star



# Close encounter of the hilarious kind



Hang onto your underpants... the aliens are on the way to entertain family audiences at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

IN space there are no underpants, and that's a problem because Aliens Love Underpants... of every shape and size.

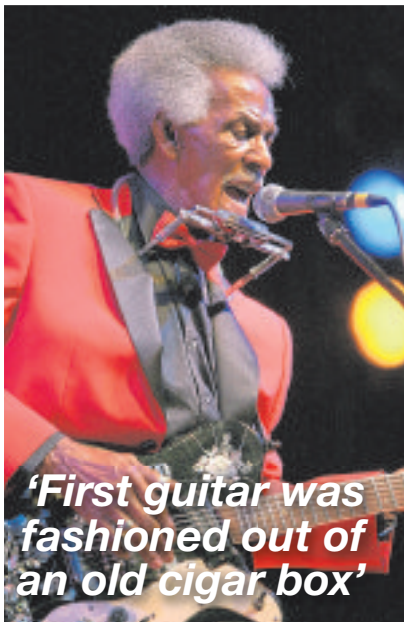
The zany and hilarious tale based on the best-selling children's book by Claire Freedman and Ben Cort has been turned into a colourful stage production with stunning effects,

madcap action and original music. And lots and lots of aliens.

This fresh and funny family show, adapted and directed by Adam Bampton-Smith, has been described as a close encounter of the most entertaining kind and will be staged at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre from Wednesday to Friday, July 22 to 24.

Aliens Love Underpants is performed at 2 and 4.30pm on Wednesday, 11am and 2pm Thursday and at 11am only on the Friday.

Tickets are £12.50, available from the website [www.grandtheatre.co.uk](http://www.grandtheatre.co.uk) or by calling the Lichfield Street venue's box office on 01902 429212... just hang onto your pants!



'First guitar was fashioned out of an old cigar box'

## From bayou to Bilston

FROM shot-gun shack to festival main stage, the prodigious talents of Lil' Jimmy Reed have taken him a long way from the banks of the Mississippi river.

One of the last surviving performers of the classic Louisiana down-home blues era, Lil' Jimmy has recently been inducted into the prestigious Blues Hall of Fame.

After taking several countries in Europe by storm over the past 12 months, with many sell-out shows and standing ovations, not bad for someone whose first guitar was fashioned out an old cigar box and learned to play by ear.

The bluesman is coming to Bilston to perform at the Robin 2 on Wednesday, July 22.

His first guitar was fashioned out of an old cigar box. He learned to play by ear, never had a lesson in his life.

His real name is Leon Atkins and he acquired the name change after turning up to watch the popular blues singer Jimmy Reed; the management at the venue, seeing their man was too worse for wear with drink to put before an audience, and aware of Leon's growing reputation, thrust him onto the stage, introducing him as Lil' Jimmy Reed — and the name stuck!

The 76-year-old musician will be appearing with his band, featuring Bob Hall on boogie woogie piano, for this all-seated show at the Mount Pleasant venue.

Tickets are £14 in advance or £15 on the door, open from 7.30pm. Book at [www.therobin.co.uk](http://www.therobin.co.uk) or call the box office on 01902 401211.

### New Order returning with album and tour

NEW Order will play a gig at Wolverhampton's Civic Hall in November, after releasing their first album in ten years.

The Manchester group will take to the stage on November 24. Music Complete, released in September, will feature guests Brandon Flowers, Iggy Pop and Elly Jackson, of La Roux, and is their first album since Waiting for the Sirens Call in 2005.

Since then bass player Peter Hook left the group, which was formed by members of Joy Division after singer Ian Curtis's death in 1980. New Order hits include 1990 England World Cup anthem World in Motion, Regret and Blue Monday. Tickets are £41.25.

### Blue star Simon as a big bad wolf

A NEW family musical is trotting into Birmingham Town Hall before heading to London's West End.

Birmingham's own Blue and Strictly Come Dancing star Simon Webbe will play the big bad wolf in 3 Little Pigs, from the songwriting duo George Stiles and Anthony Drewe, at the Victoria Square venue for matinee performances from July 28 to August 2.

His co-stars include West End stars Leanne Jones from Hair-spray and Wolverhampton's Taofique Polarin from The Lion King. Tickets start at £12 plus fees from [www.thsh.co.uk](http://www.thsh.co.uk) or call 0121 345 0600.

### Camel make Civic classic rock oasis

KENT rock band Camel formed in 1971 and are still producing the goods more than 40 years on, albeit with only guitarist/vocalist Andy Latimer remaining from the original line-up.

Stalwarts of the Canterbury progressive rock scene, that also spawned Soft Machine, Caravan and Matching Mole, Camel created 14 studio albums. They won acclaim in 1974 with second album Mirage and 1975 concept album The Snow Goose.

They will be in concert at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on Thursday, July 23. Tickets start at £27.50, from [www.wolvescivic.co.uk](http://www.wolvescivic.co.uk) or by calling 0970 320 7000.

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The Crown at Wergs – perfect for eating outside or inside



Place to be – The Crown is worth dressing up for



A great way to start lunch – the beech mushrooms in a white wine and black garlic velouté



Choc pots – the caramel added a nice twist

# This real jewel in city's Crown offers a right royal tasty treat

**A BELLY full of good food, the sun beating down and a chilled glass of white wine in hand, it's fair to say I was one satisfied diner.**

There's something about the laid-back vibe, friendly atmosphere and great food at The Crown at Wergs in Wolverhampton, which keeps luring me back time after time.

And on my recent visit, once again I wasn't disappointed. We struck lucky, it was a blistering hot Sunday afternoon and so we chose to sit outside in the front garden.

And if the weather wasn't as gorgeous as it had been, we'd have been happy enough inside as the surroundings are classy and the decor modern.

It's the kind of place that you want to make an effort for – if you pop in, get a little

**By Emily Bridgewater**

dressed up – it's more than just a bog-standard pub and to be fair, I think The Crown knows it.

There is plenty of room inside, with luxurious furnishings, huge tables for large groups as well as places to sit at the bar. The Sunday papers were stacked up on our visit too (a nice touch), so we grabbed a couple and settled in with a Pinot Grigio and a pint of cider as we looked over the menus.

Normally I stick to the same foods whenever I eat out, but the menu at The Crown was so good I wanted to try something new.

I've also got a bit of a habit of looking at the dessert menu first, choosing what I want and then figuring out what else I can fit in so I'm not too full. Is it just me that does that? So deciding I was definitely having the apple tart. I could go all out with my

first two courses. The starters were difficult to choose from. My friend had already set his heart on the Beech mushrooms dish and I eventually went for the warm Melusine goat's cheese crottin with beetroot carpaccio and borage honey.

## Sweetness

The dish was summer on a plate, warm, gooey, sharp cheese was balanced by the beetroot, while the sweetness of the honey added a very pleasant extra. My friend's mushrooms arrived in a creamy and rich white wine and black garlic velouté. The mushrooms were tender, the poached egg was perfectly runny and yellow and the pistou brioche added a contrasting texture.

The main courses were as difficult to choose from as the starters, I could have devoured pretty much anything on the list. But in the end it was the duck that I went

with. The Gressingham duck leg confit was moist, the waffle was sweet and a surprising delight. Together with the sweet potato and honey roasted pineapple it made for a sugary dish, but I thought it was divine. My friend's fillet steak was a hunk of juicy meat and was a real quality cut which was cooked perfectly medium rare.

We were getting too full for dessert, but I'd already decided what I was having. The warm tarte aux pommes was exactly as I'd hoped it would be. Thinly sliced apples on wafer thin pastry and with the creamiest vanilla ice cream. My friend wolfed down his salted caramel chocolate pot – gooey chocolate, with the caramel subtly offsetting the taste of the chocolate. Our meal and drinks came to just over £80, which is not cheap, but for three excellent courses, a couple of glasses of wine and a cider, was worth every penny.

## star★extra TRAVEL London Theatre Breaks

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**Saturday Night Theatre from £159.<sup>95</sup>**

Catch the Theatre Express and enjoy a super two-day weekend break in the capital. There's a choice of London hotels and your ticket is for a Saturday evening performance.

Rail travel is standard class with the option to upgrade. Departs Saturday morning/early afternoon from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton, returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening to give plenty of free time for shopping and sightseeing.

**Theatre Showstopper from £229.<sup>95</sup>**

This popular theatre package to the West End departs from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton on the Friday morning returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening.

Standard class travel is included with the option to upgrade plus two nights stay at a four-star London hotel of your choice (hotel supplements may apply). Includes a top priced ticket for a Friday evening performance.

**Coach inclusive breaks – Two days**  
Selected weekend departures

**Saturday Night from £139.<sup>95</sup>**

**Theatre Weekend with Dinner from £149.<sup>95</sup>**

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For the Theatre Weekend with Dinner option see the matinee performance before heading to the hotel for an evening meal. The Saturday Night option includes a ticket for the show to see an evening performance.

Both breaks include a theatre ticket, overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel plus full English breakfast.

Pick-up points offered are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

\*The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details. Single rooms subject to availability – supplements apply.


*Organised by Omega Events Ltd (ABTA Y590X)*



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Please read brochure/web page for full information plus terms and conditions



CHOICE	BBC1	BBC2	ITV	CHANNEL 4	CHANNEL 5	DIGITAL
<div></div> <div><b>Boxing: Frampton Live (ITV, 9.45pm)</b> Carl Frampton v Alejandro Gonzalez Jr. Mark Pougatch presents coverage of the bout for the IBF World Super Bantamweight title, which takes place at Don Haskins Convention Centre in El Paso, Texas. Northern Irishman Frampton is making the second defence of the title he won last year, and will enter this fight as an overwhelming favourite against a Mexican opponent who has not faced anyone of known repute, and is fighting outside of his native country for just the second time as a professional. Commentary comes from Dave Farrar and Richie Woodhall, with analysis by David Haye and Duke McKenzie.</div>	<div><b>6.00</b> Breakfast. <b>10.00</b> Golf: The Open Championship. <b>12.00</b> BBC News; Weather. <b>12.10</b> Golf: The Open Championship. Hazel Irvine introduces further coverage of the third day from the Old Course at St Andrews, where the 144th staging of the Major continues. With commentary by Peter Alliss, Ken Brown, Andrew Cotter, Mark James, Frank Nobilo, Philip Parkin, Maureen Madill and Julian Tutt, and reports from Cara Robinson and Rishi Persad. <b>6.45</b> BBC News. <b>6.55</b> <b>Regional Programme.</b> <b>7.00</b> <b>Prized Apart.</b> The five remaining adventurers head to the Moroccan port of Essaouira, where challenges include filling a basket of sardines to a weight of 50kg – without using a measuring aid. Presented by Emma Willis and Reggie Yates. <b>8.05</b> <b>The National Lottery: Who Dares Wins.</b> Nick Knowles hosts the game show in which two pairs of complete strangers team up. Gaby Roslin introduces the Lotto and Thunderball draws and Will Young performs his new single. <b>8.55</b> <b>Casualty.</b> An unlikely hero leads the team to a crucial diagnosis and things get worse for Dylan as he struggles with his obsessive behaviour compulsions. <b>9.45</b> <b>The John Bishop Show.</b> The comedian introduces stand-up routines from Jo Caulfield, Andy Askins and Daniel Sloss, music from Andriya Triana and John Newman, and magic by Jason Byrne. Last in the series. <b>10.30</b> BBC News; Weather; National Lottery Update. <b>10.50</b> <b>Not Going Out.</b> Lucy plans an anniversary party for her parents and is determined to keep it a secret. However, she makes the big mistake of telling Lee all the details. (R) <b>11.20</b> <b>Would I Lie to You?</b> Rob Brydon hosts the panel show, in which champions David Mitchell and Lee Mack are joined by Charles Dance, Stephen Mangan, Izy Suttie and Gok Wan. (R) <b>11.50</b> <b>Film: Seraphim Falls.</b> (2006) An injured Union soldier flees through a mountain wilderness pursued by a vengeful Confederate officer. Western thriller, starring Pierce Brosnan and Liam Neeson. <b>1.35</b> Weather for the Week Ahead. <b>1.40</b> BBC News.</div>	<div><b>7.05</b> <b>Film:</b> The Master of Ballantrae. (1953) <b>8.30</b> The Women's Football Show. <b>9.00</b> Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. <b>10.30</b> The Box. (R) <b>11.00</b> Alex Polizzi: Chefs on Trial. (R) <b>12.00</b> Athletics. <b>1.00</b> Live Davis Cup Tennis. Great Britain v France. <b>4.00</b> Holiday of My Lifetime with Len Goodman. (R) <b>4.45</b> Escape to the Continent. <b>5.45</b> Flog It! (R) <b>6.45</b> <b>Golf: The Open Championship.</b> Hazel Irvine introduces live coverage of the closing stages of the third day from the Old Course at St Andrews, where the 144th staging of the Major continues. The players that featured at the top of the leaderboard at the halfway stage were the last to take to the course today, and all will be looking to produce a strong finish to their rounds and put themselves in contention for the title heading into tomorrow. With commentary by Peter Alliss, Ken Brown, Andrew Cotter, Mark James, Frank Nobilo, Philip Parkin, Maureen Madill and Julian Tutt, and reports from Cara Robinson and Rishi Persad. <b>7.45</b> <b>Edwardian Farm.</b> The arrival of spring sees the daffodil harvest, a pony trek and the birth of new lambs – as well as a pleasant surprise for Ruth in the run-up to Mother's Day. (R) <b>8.45</b> <b>Dad's Army.</b> Sgt Wilson struggles to concentrate on his Home Guard duties when he has a personal problem to contend with. (R) <b>9.15</b> <b>Melvyn Bragg: Winton to Westminster.</b> Documentary about the broadcaster's life. The film examines the influence of his working class roots in Cumbria on his 50-year career as one of Britain's foremost champions of the arts, presenting The South Bank Show, becoming a regular presence on Radio 4 and a prolific author. Featuring contributions from Judi Dench, Grayson Perry, Chris Evans and Will Self. <b>10.30</b> <b>Mock the Week.</b> Ed Byrne, Rob Beckett, Sara Pascoe, Romesh Ranganathan and Ed Gamble join Dara O Briain and Hugh Dennis for the topical comedy quiz show. (R) <b>11.05</b> <b>Film: Little Voice.</b> (1998) A shy woman with a talent for impersonating famous performers is exploited by a greedy promoter. Comedy drama, with Jane Horrocks and Michael Caine. <b>12.35</b> <b>Film:</b> Heavenly Creatures. (1994) <b>2.10</b> This is BBC Two.</div>	<div><b>6.00</b> CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! <b>6.25</b> Pat &amp; Stan. (R) <b>6.35</b> Dino Dan. (R) <b>6.45</b> Dino Dan. (R) <b>7.00</b> Canimals. (R) <b>7.15</b> Sooty. (R) <b>7.30</b> Super 4. (R) <b>7.45</b> Fish Hooks. <b>8.00</b> Young Justice: Invasion. (R) <b>8.25</b> ITV News. <b>8.30</b> Weekend. <b>9.25</b> Murder, She Wrote. (R) <b>10.20</b> The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) <b>11.20</b> The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) <b>12.25</b> ITV News; Weather. <b>12.30</b> The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) <b>1.35</b> Surprise Surprise. (R) <b>2.35</b> The Chase. (R) <b>3.30</b> All Star Family Fortunes. (R) <b>4.15</b> Tipping Point. (R) <b>5.15</b> Catchphrase. Stephen Mulhern hosts the game show in which three contestants guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues, before one of them plays to win £50,000. (R) <b>6.00</b> <b>Regional Programme;</b> Weather. <b>6.15</b> <b>ITV News;</b> Weather. <b>6.30</b> <b>You've Been Framed!</b> Harry Hill narrates a selection of mishaps filmed by viewers, featuring children performing a stage version of The Exorcist, a stripping grandmother and death-defying teenagers. (R) <b>7.00</b> <b>Film: Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2.</b> (2011) The young wizard continues his search for the artefacts containing fragments of the dark lord Voldemort's soul. Time is running out, as the evil sorcerer is aware of Harry's mission, and marshals his forces for a final, devastating attack on Harry and his friends at Hogwarts school. Conclusion of the fantasy saga, with Daniel Radcliffe, Ralph Fiennes, Rupert Grint, Emma Watson and Alan Rickman. <b>9.30</b> <b>ITV News;</b> Weather. <b>9.45</b> <b>Boxing: Frampton Live.</b> Carl Frampton v Alejandro Gonzalez Jr. Coverage of the bout for the IBF World Super Bantamweight title, which takes place at Don Haskins Convention Centre in El Paso, Texas. <b>11.00</b> <b>The Chase.</b> Bradley Walsh presents as four contestants pit their wits against ruthless quiz genius the Chaser in the hope of winning a potential prize pot worth thousands of pounds. They work as a team and play strategically to answer general knowledge questions against the clock and race down the game board to the exit without being caught. (R) <b>12.00</b> Jackpot247. <b>3.00</b> Ejector Seat. (R) <b>3.50</b> ITV Nightscreen.</div>	<div><b>6.05</b> The Chester Deva Triathlon. <b>6.35</b> The Grid. <b>7.00</b> IPC World Swimming Championships 2015. <b>8.00</b> The Morning Line. <b>9.00</b> Frasier. (R) <b>9.30</b> Frasier. (R) <b>10.00</b> The Big Bang Theory. (R) <b>10.30</b> The Big Bang Theory. (R) <b>10.55</b> The Big Bang Theory. (R) <b>11.25</b> The Simpsons. (R) <b>11.55</b> The Simpsons. (R) <b>12.25</b> The Simpsons. (R) <b>12.55</b> Rude(ish) Tube. <b>1.25</b> Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Newbury, Newmarket and Market Rasen. <b>4.15</b> Come Dine with Me. (R) <b>4.45</b> Come Dine with Me. (R) <b>5.15</b> Come Dine with Me. (R) <b>5.45</b> Come Dine with Me. (R) <b>6.15</b> <b>Come Dine with Me.</b> It is the turn of the former Apprentice contestant Stuart Baggs to host the final dinner party at the Isle of Man. He serves an American-inspired mezze with "Harvard mess". (R) <b>6.40</b> <b>Channel 4 News.</b> <b>7.00</b> <b>Homes by the Sea.</b> Charlie Luxton explores coastal properties in Norfolk, including a former granary on the Blakeney quayside and a lighthouse in Winterton-on-Sea. Previously seen on More4.. <b>8.00</b> <b>Walking Through History: Victoria and Albert's Highland Fling.</b> Tony Robinson visits the Cairngorms National Park to discover how Queen Victoria and Prince Albert helped shape Scottish traditions and built their fantasy castle at Balmoral. (R) <b>9.00</b> <b>Film: The Watch.</b> (2012) Premiere. A small-town supermarket manager organises a neighbourhood watch group to patrol his community after a suspicious death, but finds the only recruits he can gather do not take the job seriously. They soon face a greater threat than crime when they uncover a secret alien invasion going on under their noses. Sci-fi comedy, starring Ben Stiller, Vince Vaughn, Jonah Hill and Richard Aycock. <b>11.00</b> <b>Film: Scary Movie.</b> (2000) Terrified teenagers go to ridiculous lengths to avoid being slain by a serial killer in a ghost-like mask. Spoof horror, starring Anna Faris, Carmen Electra and Shannon Elizabeth. <b>12.45</b> The Last Leg. (R) <b>1.40</b> Hollyoaks. (R) <b>3.50</b> You Deserve This House. (R) <b>4.45</b> River Cottage Bites. (R) <b>5.00</b> Fifteen to One. (R) <b>5.50</b> How I Met Your Mother. (R) <b>6.00</b> The Chester Deva Triathlon. (R)</div>	<div><b>6.00</b> Milkshake! <b>10.00</b> Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) <b>10.35</b> Access. <b>10.45</b> Cowboy Builders. (R) <b>11.40</b> Cowboy Builders. (R) <b>12.40</b> Cowboy Builders. (R) <b>1.35</b> <b>Film:</b> Columbus: Death Lends a Hand. (1971) Detective drama, starring Peter Falk and Ray Milland. <b>3.10</b> The Dog Rescuers with Alan Davies. (R) <b>4.05</b> Sick Note Skivers Exposed. (R) <b>5.05</b> Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. (R) <b>6.05</b> <b>Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.</b> Paul Bohill and Steve Pinner evict a couple who owe five months' rent on a flat in an affluent London suburb, and later hit a snag when they try to seize a taxi over a £3,000 debt. (R) <b>6.55</b> <b>5 News Weekend.</b> <b>7.00</b> <b>Cricket on 5.</b> England v Australia. Highlights of the third day's play in the Second Ashes Test at Lord's. The home side dominated with the bat on day three in 2013 after captain Alastair Cook decided not to enforce the follow-on, having bowled the tourists out for 128. Yorkshire batsman Joe Root ended the day not out on 178, with Ian Bell also passing 50 to leave England in a dominant position on 333/5, a lead of 566 runs. Mark Nicholas presents and also provides commentary alongside Michael Vaughan, Geoffrey Boycott and Simon Hughes. <b>8.00</b> <b>Deep-Sea Super Predator.</b> Documentary about the search for a mysterious predator that is large enough to hunt down and devour a three-metre long great white shark. Plus, a look at the discovery of a bizarre natural phenomenon that, for only a few short weeks each year, sees some of the ocean's most fearsome creatures behave in an unusually aggressive manner. (R) <b>9.00</b> <b>Transporter: The Series.</b> Frank's latest job goes awry when he loses his package in a hold-up and is accused by his Russian gangster employer of having embezzled the money. Chris Vance stars. <b>10.00</b> <b>Film: The Siege.</b> (1998) An FBI agent races to stop a terrorist cell responsible for a series of bombings while New York is placed under martial law. Thriller, starring Denzel Washington and Bruce Willis. Edited for length. <b>12.10</b> SuperCasino. <b>3.10</b> Burglars &amp; Break-ins: Caught on Camera. (R) <b>4.00</b> Police Interceptors. (R) <b>4.50</b> Make It Big. (R) <b>5.40</b> Angels of Jarm. (R)</div>	<div><b>BBC Three</b> <b>7.00</b> Top Gear <b>8.00</b> Don't Tell the Bride <b>9.00</b> <b>Film:</b> Meet the Parents (2000) <b>10.45</b> Family Guy <b>1.00</b> People Just Do Nothing <b>1.30</b> Some Girls <b>3.30</b> People Just Do Nothing <b>4.00</b> Close <b>BBC Four</b> <b>7.00</b> Pappano's Classical Voices: Mezzo-Soprano <b>8.00</b> Wild Burma: Nature's Lost Kingdom <b>9.00</b> Cordon <b>10.40</b> David Bowie – Five Years in the Making of an Icon <b>12.10</b> The Genius of David Bowie <b>1.10</b> Top of the Pops: 1980 <b>1.55</b> Wild Burma: Nature's Lost Kingdom <b>2.55</b> You've Got a Friend: The Carole King Story <b>3.55</b> Close <b>ITV2</b> <b>11.30</b> Celebrity Catchphrase <b>12.30</b> Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records <b>1.30</b> <b>Film:</b> The Flintstones (1994) <b>3.15</b> Ant &amp; Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway <b>4.45</b> <b>Film:</b> Peter Pan (2003) <b>6.55</b> <b>Film:</b> The Lake House (2006) <b>9.00</b> <b>Film:</b> Something Borrowed (2011) <b>11.15</b> <b>Film:</b> Batman Returns (1992) <b>1.45</b> Fake Reaction <b>2.20</b> <b>Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records</b> <b>2.45</b> Teleshopping <b>5.45</b> <b>ITV2</b> Nightscreen <b>ITV3</b> <b>12.40</b> Jane Eyre <b>2.50</b> A Touch of Frost <b>4.55</b> <b>Film:</b> Columbus: Troubled Waters (1975) <b>7.00</b> Doc Martin <b>8.00</b> Midsomer Murders <b>10.00</b> Agatha Christie's Marple <b>12.00</b> Wire in the Blood <b>1.30</b> Doctor at Large <b>2.20</b> <b>ITV3</b> Nightscreen <b>2.30</b> Teleshopping <b>ITV4</b> <b>11.05</b> Pawn Stars <b>1.00</b> Tour de France Highlights <b>2.00</b> Tour de France Live. Coverage of the 14th stage. <b>4.30</b> The Professionals <b>5.30</b> Counting Cars <b>6.00</b> Storage Wars <b>7.00</b> Tour de France Highlights <b>8.00</b> The Celebrity Game Show <b>9.00</b> <b>Boxing:</b> Frampton Live. The build-up to Carl Frampton v Alejandro Gonzalez Jr. <b>10.00</b> <b>Film:</b> Rambo III (1988) <b>12.05</b> River Monsters <b>1.05</b> Tour de France Highlights <b>2.00</b> The Cycle Show <b>2.50</b> <b>ITV4</b> Nightscreen <b>3.00</b> Teleshopping <b>E4</b> <b>11.00</b> Melissa &amp; Joey <b>12.00</b> Baby Daddy <b>1.00</b> The Goldbergs <b>2.00</b> How I Met Your Mother <b>3.00</b> <b>Film:</b> Black Knight (2001) <b>5.00</b> The Big Bang Theory <b>9.00</b> <b>Film:</b> X-Men Origins: Wolverine (2009) <b>11.05</b> Gogglebox <b>12.40</b> Rude Tube: Rude Tunes <b>1.45</b> Virtually Famous <b>2.30</b> How I Met Your Mother <b>3.15</b> Rules of Engagement <b>4.05</b> The Cleveland Show <b>4.30</b> Make It or Break It <b>Film4</b> <b>11.00</b> The Rare Breed (1966) <b>1.00</b> School of Rock (2003) <b>3.15</b> Ice Age: Continental Drift (2012) <b>5.00</b> The Dark Crystal (1982) <b>6.55</b> Fletch (1985) <b>9.00</b> Welcome to the Punch (2013) <b>10.55</b> Silent House (2011) <b>12.40</b> Carriers (2009) <b>2.20</b> The Love Guru (2008) <b>4.00</b> Close</div>

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CHOICE



George MacKay

**The Outcast (BBC1, 9.00pm)**  
The conclusion of Sadie Jones' two-part adaptation of her own best-selling novel of the same name. With his mother's tragic death having set in motion a chain of events that would lead him down a self-destructive path to prison, Lewis Aldridge serves his sentence, and resolves to return home to suburban Surrey a changed man. However, despite his intention to amends for the mistakes of his past, the residents of his childhood home might not be so pleased to see him. Coming of age drama, set in the 1950s, starring George MacKay, Daisy Bevan, Jessica Brown Findlay, Finn Elliot, Greg Wise, Frances Jeater, Hattie Morahan and Nathaniel Parker.

BBC1

**6.00 Breakfast. 9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** Golf: The Open Championship. Hazel Irvine introduces live coverage of the fourth and final day from the Old Course at St Andrews, where the 144th staging of the Major concludes and the winner is decided. Subsequent programmes are subject to change.  
**6.50 BBC News.**  
**7.00 Regional Programme.**  
**7.10 Countryfile.** The team heads to Northumberland, where Matt Baker meets an artist who has become a keen diver in an effort to better capture on canvas the landscapes that lie beneath the surface of the North Sea. Together, the pair embark on an underwater exploration near the Farne Islands, including Weather for the Week Ahead.  
**8.00 Fake or Fortune?** Fiona Bruce and art expert Philip Mould visit a church in Lancashire, once patronised by Yorkshire's famous Brontë sisters, that is the home of a painting thought to have been produced by an Italian old master. The picture itself is a pietà, an image of the aftermath of Christ's crucifixion, and Philip has a hunch it may be from the Italian Renaissance, possibly making this one of the oldest pieces featured in the series so far. On behalf of the church's congregation, Fiona and Philip travel to Italy to compare the Lancastrian pietà with works by old masters Titian and Tintoretto, while back in the UK, Bendor Grosvenor investigates the history of a local aristocrat who is believed to have donated the painting to the church more than 200 years ago.  
**9.00 The Outcast.** Lewis returns home a changed man following his release from prison, and is determined to make amends for the mistakes of his past. Coming-of-age drama, starring George MacKay.  
**10.30 BBC News.**  
**10.50 Regional Programme.**  
**11.00 Prized Apart.** The five remaining adventurers head to the Moroccan port of Essaouira, where challenges include filling a basket of sardines to a weight of 50kg – without using a measuring aid. (R)  
**12.00** Don't Tell the Bride. (R) **1.00** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.05** BBC News.

BBC2

**6.15** The A to Z of TV Gardening. (R)  
**7.00** Big Dreams Small Spaces. (R) **8.00** Countryfile. (R) **8.55** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites: Weather for the Week Ahead.  
**10.25** Mary Berry's Absolute Favourites: (R) Weather for the Week Ahead. **11.00** Golf: The Open Championship. **12.15** Live Davis Cup Tennis. **4.15** Songs of Praise. (R) **4.50** Hair. (R) **5.20** Hair. (R) **5.50** Ireland's Wild River: The Mighty Shannon. (R)  
**6.50 Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen: Cracking China.** Documentary following the designer on trips to China and Mexico as he tries to launch his company internationally and take advantage of the world's newly emerging middle classes. (R)  
**7.50 Meet the New Dragons.** An introduction to Touker Suleyman, Sarah Willingham and Nick Jenkins, the three successful entrepreneurs joining the panel of Dragons for the show's 13th series.  
**8.00 Dragons' Den.** A former City accountant sets out her plan to develop a range of Nigerian-inspired snacks, and a businessman from Sheffield pitches his design for a cement-mixer lid.  
**9.00 Odyssey.** Odelle wonders if she can trust Colonel Glen as she pays a visit to a secret CIA safe house. Meanwhile, Peter discovers Societal Mining is investigating Joe.  
**9.45 The Javone Prince Show.** New series. The actor pokes fun at the more ridiculous elements of everyday life via stand-up performances, comedy sketches and music.  
**10.15 Family Guy.** Peter and Lois open a cookie store.  
**10.35 Family Guy.** The Griffins visit Italy.  
**10.55 Family Guy.** Stewie and Brian travel back to 17th-century Jamestown, where they encounter many opportunities to alter the course of mankind.  
**11.20 Film: The Infidel.** (2010) A Muslim suffers an identity crisis on learning his mother was Jewish, and seeks help in getting to grips with his heritage. Comedy, starring Omid Djalili and Richard Schiff.  
**1.00 Film: Perfect Creature.** (2006) **2.20** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **3.20** Holby City. (R) **4.15** This is BBC Two.

ITV

**6.00** CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.15** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Super 4. (R) **7.45** Fish Hooks. **8.00** Young Justice: Invasion. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.30** ITV News: Weather. **12.35** Love Your Garden. (R) **1.40** Long Lost Family: What Happened Next. (R) **2.40** Film: Dirty Rotten Scoundrels. (1998) Comedy, starring Michael Caine and Steve Martin.  
**6.45 Regional Programme:** Weather.  
**7.00 ITV News:** Weather.  
**7.15 Catchphrase.** Stephen Mulhern hosts the game show in which three contestants guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues, before one of them plays to win £50,000. Last in the series.  
**8.00 Surprise Surprise.** Dreams come true for a 15-year-old carer from Essex, a woman who set up a charity to help one vulnerable person a week, a man who formed the first homeless football league in Wales.  
**9.00 Joanna Lumley's Trans-Siberian Adventure.** The actress and former model reaches the midway point of her 6,000-mile journey from Hong Kong to Moscow via the Trans-Siberian Railway, taking in the varied sights of Mongolia. She spends time with native nomads, and visits a giant statue of Genghis Khan, as well as a gold mine. She also heads to the nation's capital, Ulan Bator, where she tracks down the famous Mongolian throat-singers, before catching a train bound for Russia. However, making a start on the Siberian leg of her trek proves more difficult than Joanna expects.  
**10.05 ITV News:** Weather.  
**10.20 Bear Grylls: Mission Survive.** The remaining celebrities forage for food in the forest, endure another stormy night and face their most extreme challenge yet – crossing a 200ft ravine one by one on a rope. (R)  
**11.20 Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Julie Goodyear.** The actress best known as Coronation Street's Bet Lynch talks candidly about her four marriages and a stint in a psychiatric hospital. (R)  
**12.15** Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

**6.15** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.40** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.05** British GT. **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast. (R) **1.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **3.00** The Simpsons. (R) **3.30** The Simpsons. (R) **4.00** The Simpsons. (R) **4.30** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.35** Phil Spencer: Secret Agent.  
**6.30 Channel 4 News.**  
**7.00 Grand Designs.** In the second of four special programmes, Kevin McCloud looks at the challenges of self-building in the UK's most remote places, where beautiful landscapes often meet savage weather. Drawing on footage from 15 years of the programme, as well as new visits to extraordinary and incredible homes, Kevin reveals which designs work best, and why. Along the way, he interviews pioneers at the forefront of architecture in the wilderness and sees the astonishing lengths people go to live on the edges of society. (R)  
**8.00 London's Lost Graveyard: The Crossrail Discovery.** Documentary revealing how Crossrail engineers uncovered a burial site on Liverpool Street in London, providing an insight into what life in the capital was like 300 years ago. Return of the Black Death: Secret History follows on More4.  
**9.00 Humans.** Laura makes a confession that could have incredible consequences for Anita, and while Karen finally tracks down Niska, the runaway synthys face a brutal betrayal.  
**10.08 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown.** Jimmy Carr hosts the words-and-numbers panel game, with Sean Lock join by Johnny Vegas, and special guest captain Sarah Millican joining forces with Rob Beckett. (R)  
**11.05 Film: It's Complicated.** (2009) A divorced couple are reunited at their son's college graduation after 10 years apart, and begin a secret affair. Romantic comedy, with Meryl Streep and Alec Baldwin.  
**1.15** TutanKhamun: The Mystery of the Buried Mummy – Secret History. (R) **2.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.35** Secret Eaters. (R) **5.30** SuperScrimpers. (R) **5.35** Draw It! (R)

CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **6.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.40** Pip Ahoy! (R) **6.45** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.55** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.05** Roodbarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.15** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.25** Paw Patrol. **7.40** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **7.50** Little Princess. (R) **8.05** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **8.15** Zack and Quack. (R) **8.25** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **8.30** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.45** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.05** LazyTown. (R) **9.30** Dora and Friends. (R) **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.35** The Secret Life of Pets. (R) **11.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.00** Film: Jack and the Beanstalk. (2010) Fantasy adventure, starring Colin Ford. **3.45** Film: Madeline. (1998) Children's comedy, with Hatty Jones and Frances McDormand. **5.30** Film: The Emperor's New Groove. (2001) Animated Disney comedy, with the voice of David Spade.  
**7.00 Cricket on 5.** England v Australia. Action from the fourth day's play in the Second Ashes Test at Lord's. Mark Nicholas presents and also provides commentary alongside Michael Vaughan, Geoffrey Boycott and Simon Hughes.  
**7.55 5 News Weekend.**  
**8.00 Police Interceptors Unleashed with Vinnie Jones.** The actor introduces clips of high-speed police chases, featuring an off-road runaround, a drink-driver who crashes his car into a house, and a motorist driving the wrong way up the M6.  
**9.00 Film: Red Dawn.** (2012) Premiere. The North Korean military mounts an invasion of the United States, with a small Washington state town the first target for their attack. The local teenagers form a resistance movement and carry out a guerrilla campaign to drive out the occupying forces. Remake of the 1980s action adventure, starring Chris Hemsworth.  
**10.45 Film: Under Siege.** (1992) A veteran US Navy Seal working on a battleship as a cook leaps into action to liberate the vessel from terrorists. Action adventure, starring Steven Seagal and Tommy Lee Jones.  
**12.45** Tattoo Disasters UK. (R) **1.15** SuperCasino. **3.10** Under the Dome. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **5.45** Angels of Jarm. (R)

DIGITAL

**BBC Three**  
**7.00** Don't Tell the Bride **8.00** Film: Shrek (2001) **9.20** Top Gear **10.35** Live at the Apollo **11.20** Family Guy **12.05** American Dad! **12.25** Family Guy **12.50** People Just Do Nothing **1.20** Live at the Apollo **2.00** Young, Welsh and Pretty Skin **2.30** Some Girls **3.30** Parents' Evening **4.00** Close  
**BBC Four**  
**7.00** Neil Sedaka: King of Song **8.00** Pappano's Classical Voices: Bartones & Basses **9.00** BBC Proms Sunday Symphony **10.30** Imagine – Bette Midler: The Divine Miss M **11.45** Neil Sedaka: King of Song **12.45** Art of Cornwall **2.15** Rock 'n' Roll America **3.15** Close  
**ITV2**  
**12.05** Take Me Out **1.15** Take Me Out – The Gossip **2.00** Catchphrase **2.40** Film: The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants (2005) **5.00** Film: Back to the Future Part II (1989) **7.10** Film: Jurassic Park III (2001) **8.00** Film: Love Actually (2003) **11.40** Film: Batman Returns (1992) **2.05** Life's Funniest Moments **2.30** Teleshopping  
**ITV3**  
**12.40** A Touch of Frost **4.50** Film: Death Becomes Her (1992) **8.55** Wycliffe **8.00** Inspector Morse **10.20** Film: Parenthood (1999) **12.45** Blue Murder **1.55** Cornwall with Caroline Quentin **2.45** Man About the House **3.40** Emmerdale  
**ITV4**  
**11.00** MotoGP Highlights **12.00** The Cycle Show **1.00** Tour de France Highlights **2.00** Tour de France Live. Coverage of the 15th stage. **4.30** Storage Wars **5.30** Counting Cars **6.00** BRDC Formula 4 Championship Highlights **7.00** Tour de France Highlights **8.00** Film: Licence to Kill (1989) **10.45** Film: Absolute Power (1997) **1.20** Duck Dynasty **2.05** Tour de France Highlights **2.55** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping  
**E4**  
**12.25** Couples Come Dine with Me **2.30** The Goldbergs **3.30** The Big Bang Theory **5.30** The Big Bang Theory – E4's Top 20 **8.00** Film: Journey to the Center of the Earth (2008) **10.00** Gogglebox **11.40** Film: Under Siege 2: Dark Territory (1995) **1.45** Tattoo Fixers **2.40** Tattoos After Dark **3.30** Hollyoaks  
**Film4**  
**11.00** Distant Drums (1951) **1.00** Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events (2004) **3.00** Dr Seuss: The Lorax (2012) **4.40** Meet Dave (2008) **6.25** A Knight's Tale (2001) **9.00** Bad Teacher (2011) **10.50** The Negotiator (1998) **1.35** Tigerland (2000) **3.45** Close

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FILM CHOICES

**MONDAY**  
**Next, Channel 5, 10.55pm**  
A magician has the ability to see into the immediate future. When intelligence suggests a nuclear attack on Los Angeles is imminent, an FBI counter-terror agent sets out to persuade the gifted individual to use his psychic powers to avert disaster. Thriller, starring Nicolas Cage, Julianne Moore, Jessica Biel and Thomas Kretschmann. (2007)

**TUESDAY**  
**Once, BBC1, 11.45pm**  
A Dublin vacuum cleaner repairman, with a sideline as a busker, and an immigrant Czech pianist struggling to support her family, discover they are kindred spirits and set out to record an album together. Romantic musical drama, starring Glen Hansard and Marketa Irglova. (2006)

**WEDNESDAY**  
**Audrey's Rain, Channel 5, 3.15pm**  
An embittered woman who has given up all her own dreams for the sake of her younger siblings finds herself having to bear even more responsibility when her sister commits suicide and leaves her to raise two children. However, the return of a lost love rekindles her sense of hope. Drama, starring Jean Smart. (2003)



Cast Away, Friday, BBC1, 11.20pm

**THURSDAY**  
**Baby Sellers, Channel 5, 3.15pm**  
The owner of an adoption agency maintains a respectable reputation, while secretly the children she provides to desperate clients are obtained by illegal means. A customs agent develops suspicions about the criminal network behind the trade in kidnapped infants and tries to expose the scandal. Crime drama, starring Jennifer Finnigan and Kirstie Alley. (2013)

**FRIDAY**  
**Cast Away, BBC1, 11.20pm**  
A manager for an American courier service has to fend for himself when a plane crash leaves him stranded alone on a desert island. Initially panic-stricken, he overcomes his terror to survive for four years on his own before building a raft and setting off on an epic journey back home. Adventure drama, starring Tom Hanks, Helen Hunt. (2000)

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The life and times of a broadcasting great

**E**rudite. Intellectual. The thinking woman's crumpet. A stripe-shirted guru who interviews the artistic heavyweights.

Melvyn Bragg has been called everything in his time. But it's for something far more basic that he is likely to be remembered, long after the big names of literature have been ticked off his South Bank Show guest list. It's sex. Steamy sex. Raunchy sex. Read-behind-the-bike shed sex. All contained in the well-thumbed pages of his highly acclaimed novels which have been known to bring readers as well as the literary world out in a sweat. Remember A Time To Dance, which was serialised on television in 1992? Bragg could barely move for the letters which poured into his office from people who could identify with the steamy shenanigans going on between a middle-aged bank manager and his young lover. And what about Crystal Rooms? It made A Time To Dance seem like Mary Poppins.

But Bragg, now 75, defends those 'meaty bits' by saying: "I write about sex because it's there to be written about." Adding with relish: "In other people's books it's often salacious or crude. In mine it involves mystery, awe and certain unidentifiable feelings..." But there's more, much more, to Melvyn Bragg's immeasurable talents than a handful of steamy sex scenes.

Three films, a couple of musicals, a best-selling biography of Richard Burton, several more novels, shows on both radio and TV... need he go on?

But Melvyn isn't one to brag (sorry). He doesn't need to. The results of his prolific workload are there for everyone to see, enjoy, and comment on. Yes, even snigger behind the bike sheds. And by all accounts there's plenty more on the way. "If you ask me what I want to be doing in five years' time I would say pretty much what I'm doing now," he remarks.

The idea of still being at work at the age of 80 would send shivers down the spine of most people, but you can imagine Bragg still throwing himself into new projects left, right and centre. How does he manage to juggle so many strands seemingly so seamlessly?

"I compartmentalise, and I don't have any hobbies," he reveals. "I was married at 21, and when I started work I had to find the time to write. I had to get up at five in the morning and work at weekend, and I just got into the habit of running that and my day job together."

"Luckily I had a job that I enjoyed, and that gives you energy."

Bragg is clearly doing something right because he's about to celebrate 50 years as one of Britain's foremost champions of the arts.

This documentary takes him back to his working class roots in Wigan in Cumbria, and examines how his background has had an influence on his career.

There's also a chance to find out more about his university years, rise to fame and status as a member of the House of Lords.

Plus, an eclectic group of famous faces offer their opinions on Bragg and his work, including Judi Dench, Tony Blair, Grayson Perry, Chris Evans, John Birt and Will Self.



Melvyn Bragg: Wigan to Westminster, Saturday, BBC2, 9.15pm

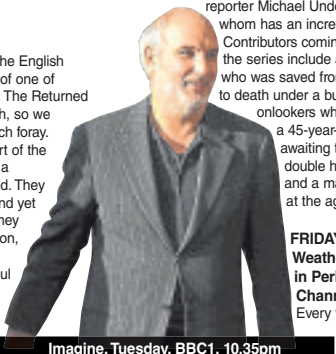
BEST OF THE REST

**MONDAY**  
**Britain at the Bookies BBC1, 9pm**  
Betting is big business in Britain - but can high-street bookmaker Coral beat the odds and remain a winner in an increasingly crowded market? The first episode in a new series going behind the scenes at the chain heads to Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, where eleven betting shops are currently competing for punters in the town centre, including Coral's Cherrytree branch, which is struggling to hit its targets and has gained an unwelcome reputation for disruptive customers. Manager Tony is the man with difficult job of turning its fortunes around. Meanwhile, at Coral HQ, the marketing team prepare to take a big wager on an online scheme, novelty betting specialist Gary works out the odds on a new series of Strictly Come Dancing, and back in Huddersfield, self-confessed compulsive gambler Stuart offers an insight into his life.

**WEDNESDAY**  
**Witnesses Channel 4, 10pm**  
The broadcaster's last raid across the English Channel resulted in the acquisition of one of the most intriguing dramas of 2014. The Returned was gripping stuff from start to finish, so we have high hopes for their next French foray. Witnesses is set in the northern part of the country, where a man, woman and a teenager have been found murdered. They had no connection to each other, and yet were left posed by their killer as if they were a family. During the investigation, detective Sandra Winckler finds a picture of legendary police chief Paul Maisonneuve, who is so baffled by the snapshot that he comes out of retirement to help find whodunit.

**THURSDAY**  
**Real Stories with Ranvir Singh ITV, 7.30pm**  
New series. Good Morning Britain news presenter Ranvir Singh presents this documentary meeting ordinary people involved in extraordinary events that have changed their lives. Each edition features three different individuals, interviewed by Ranvir or reporter Michael Underwood, each of whom has an incredible story to tell. Contributors coming up throughout the series include a father-of-two who was saved from being crushed to death under a bus by a crowd of onlookers who rushed to help, a 45-year-old mother awaiting the UK's first double hand transplant and a man with dementia at the age of 39.

**FRIDAY**  
**Weather Terror: Brits in Peril Channel 5, 8pm**  
Every year, millions of UK residents jet off abroad on holiday, hoping to escape the vagaries of the British summer. But what happens if you encounter weather conditions much, much worse than anything you would have experienced back in Blighty? This programme should offer some insights, as it hears from two Brits who found themselves in the Philippines during the most devastating typhoon on record - yet despite their own fears, they still went to the rescue of elderly hotel residents who had become trapped by the rising storm surge. The documentary also features a family whose camping holiday in France ended in them being stranded on the roof of the site's clubhouse for 14 hours, and a student who survived for seven days without food when a hiking trail in Turkey was hit by flash floods.



Imagine, Tuesday, BBC1, 10.35pm

**Live Athletics: Anniversary Games BBC2, 8pm**  
Jonathan Edwards presents further coverage of the meeting at the Olympic Stadium in London, which marks the third anniversary of the Olympics and also serves as the 11th round of the Diamond League series. Mo Farah is scheduled to compete in the 3,000m, while another British hero from the Games, Jessica Ennis-Hill, is expected to take part in the 100m hurdles. With analysis from Colin Jackson, Paula Radcliffe and Denise Lewis.



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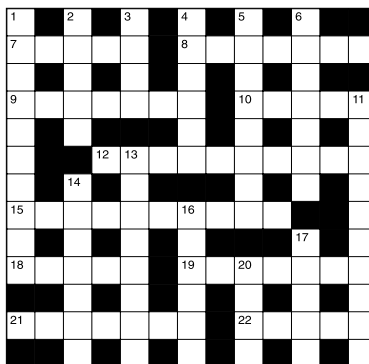
#### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
O	E	X	U	T	F	C	Z	W	Y	H	L	V
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
M	K	R	N	Q	I	A	D	G	S	J	B	P

**Cryptic Clues:**

### Across

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 7. I'm a long time making a picture (5)           | 1. Measures not intended to be taken seriously? (5,5)          |
| 8. I call round on pressing business (7)          | 2. State I mean to change (5)                                  |
| 9. Worker was backward with a tool (7)            | 3. Restricted areas for writers (4)                            |
| 10. Healing substitute? (5)                       | 4. Important person gives an extensive lecture (6)             |
| 12. Big impression that makes the headlines (5,5) | 5. Go to pieces and pass a mistake (8)                         |
| 15. Main reason why skippers have to toss? (7,3)  | 6. Current plan (7)  |
| 18. Number of men seen on the river (5)           | 11. Tom is to blame, perhaps, for an organic change (10)       |
| 19. No cardinal has spoken about the noise (7)    | 13. Profession that calls for men with high qualifications (8) |
| 21. Discover one has made a call pointless (4,3)  | 14. Get lean in order to be graceful (7)                       |
| 22. A girl appears to be wrong (5)                | 16. They may appear to frighten people (6)                     |
|   | 17. It is struck by forgers (5)                                |
|   | 20. Search the herd? (4)                                       |



**Quick Clues:**

### Across

7. Impinge (5)
8. Deeds (7)
9. Melodious (7)
10. Horseman (5)
12. Reconciliation (10)
15. Vanishing (10)
18. Long (5)
19. Unvarying (7)
21. Standing work (7)
22. Memorise (5)

## Down

1. Writing materials (10)
2. Amusing (5)
3. Cook (4)
4. Lozenge (6)
5. Source of caviare (8)
6. Warrior (7)
11. Privacy (10)
13. Regularity (8)
14. Mobile home (7)
16. Support (6)
17. Converging (5)
20. Unoccupied (4)

4			2	5		1		
					3		5	
5		1	7					8
8						3	9	
7		3	8		9			5
	5	9		3				2
					8	4		9
	4		6					
3		2		4	5			6

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S  
SOLUTIONS >

1	8	4	9	6	5	3	7
9	3	5	8	7	2	4	6
6	2	7	1	4	3	9	8
5	6	2	7	8	9	1	3
8	1	9	4	3	6	5	2
7	4	3	5	2	1	8	9
2	7	8	3	1	4	6	5
3	5	1	6	9	7	2	4
4	9	6	2	5	8	7	1

**LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:**  
**CRYPTIC - Across:** 7 United 8 Medusa; 10 Balloon; 11 Juror; 12 Arch; 13 Learn; 17 Mimic; 18 Ludo; 22 Minor; 23 Evictor; 24 Signal; 25 Notice. **Down:** 1 Tugboat; 2 Nilbick 3 Demon; 4 Ferry 5 Gore 6 Tarry 9 Inherited; 14 Lip-read 16 Curlew; 18 Gourmet; 19 Amass 20 Snags; 21 Verso. **QUICK - Across:** 7 Trophy; 8 Squirm; 10 Respite; 11 Annul; 12 Lure; 13 Rapid; 17 Truth; 18 Tear; 22 Gloom; 23 Tenuous; 24 Exhort; 25 Morsel. **Down:** 1 Startle; 2 Consort; 3 Chair; 4 Squall; 5 Giant; 6 Ample; 9 Devastate; 14 Primary; 15 Remorse; 16 Bristle; 19 Agree; 20 Booby; 21 Annov.

1. With which instrument is Jascha Heifetz associated?
2. How old was Buddy Holly when he died?
3. Which American president was present at the 1945 Yalta conference?
4. Who invented the first fully automatic machine gun?
5. Of which country is 'Waitangi Day' the national day?

6. What was the nickname of landscape gardener Lancelot Brown?
7. Which imaginary country features in The Prisoner of Zenda?
8. In which year was Shergar stolen?
9. What opened in London's Fleet St. and Bedford St. in 1852?
10. Which French chef was known as 'The King of Cooks'?

**Last week's solutions:**

**Quiz:** 1 Admiral Jellicoe; 2 1975; 3 Billy the Kid; 4 Tasmania; 5 Burmese; 6 Charles Schulz; 7 Manchester; 8 Anne Hathaway; 9 New Zealand; 10 Laurel.

**Niner:** RIGHTEOUS

## Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

8699 gives a large plant,  
34332 gives a flower,  
5175462 gives another plant.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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## BRIEFING

● The Celerio, Suzuki's latest global compact citycar went on sale in the UK in February and more than 3,000 have been delivered to date. To add further choice and value for customers, Suzuki has now introduced a new SZ2 derivative priced at just £6,999 which now completes a five-model line-up in the range consisting of SZ2, SZ3, SZ3 Dualjet, SZ4 and SZ4 with Auto Gear Shift (AGS). Although priced at £1,000 below the SZ3 model, standard specification highlights for the new SZ2 is comprehensive and includes six airbags (driver, passenger, side and curtain), electric front windows, central locking, ESP (a registered trademark of Daimler AG) and DAB radio with CD Tuner. Suzuki is well known as the small car expert and Celerio has retained its trademark compact car ease of drive while providing an elevated driving position, interior space which surpasses most conventional A-segment cars, and also a class-leading luggage capacity of 254 litres.

# HR-V promises a lot

The new Honda HR-V subcompact crossover will be priced from £17,995 on-the-road for the entry-level S grade petrol model, rising to £24,945 for the flagship EX diesel.

For those seeking finance packages, competitive PCP options for the dynamic and distinctive new Honda are expected to start from £149 per month 5.9 per cent APR with a 30 per cent deposit, bringing great affordability to the small crossover segment.

The all-new HR-V blends characterful coupé looks merged with the tough, solid stance of a robust SUV. Inside, occupants will find class-leading boot space. Thanks to innovative packaging, the HR-V's has exceptional versatility incorporating Honda's highly practical Magic Seats system, allowing for numerous loading configurations.

Buyers opting for the base-grade S model are well catered for, with convenience features such as climate control, cruise control and dusk-sensing automatic headlamps fitted as standard.

The mid-grade SE model adds a range of premium features, including rain sensing wipers, front and rear parking sensors and a six-speaker audio upgrade. A 'Smart Touch' interior includes touch panel controls for the dual-zone climate control.

Customers choosing the top-grade EX model will appreciate a full leather interior, smart entry and start, and rear-view camera. The sense of HR-V's spaciousness is amplified with the unique-in-class, tilt-and-slide opening panoramic glass sunroof. Styling is enhanced with 17-inch alloy wheels.

Customers opting for the SE or EX models will also benefit from the Honda Connect in-car infotainment system as standard. This Android-based system features an app-based 'pinch, swipe and tap' interface

accessed on a seven-inch touchscreen in the centre of the dash.

Honda Connect comes with pre-installed apps, with others available for download. These give rapid access to internet-based services such as web browsing, real-time traffic information, news and weather, social media, and internet music stations. Integrated Garmin navigation is standard on EX and is available as an option on SE models.

Designed and engineered to achieve a five-star Euro NCAP rating, every new HR-V sold in Europe will be equipped with Honda's City-Brake Active System as standard. SE or EX models will feature Honda's Advanced Driver Assist System, which uses radar sensors, plus forward- and rear-facing cameras. This comprehensive suite of active safety technologies includes Forward Collision Warning, Traffic Sign Recognition, Intelligent Speed Limiter, Lane Departure Warning and High-beam Support System.

The HR-V boasts an engaging drive coupled with efficient performance, thanks to a choice of all-new 130 PS 1.5 litre i-VTEC petrol and 120 PS 1.6 litre i-DTEC diesel engines. Combined with either a six-speed manual gearbox or a newly developed CVT (for petrol models only), emissions are as low as 104 g/km of CO<sub>2</sub>. The CVT's driveability is given a more natural 'multi-gear' feel through the use of new control software exclusive to Europe which simulates seven speeds with optimised gear change mapping.

Leon Brannan, head of cars at Honda UK, said: "16 years after the original HR-V, Honda is returning to the crossover segment it pioneered with the exceptionally spacious, versatile and technologically advanced HR-V. With highly competitive list prices, we are expecting huge demand for the all-new HR-V. HR-V signals the third of five new and refreshed models for the brand this year. We're confident the HR-V will further broaden the appeal of the Honda brand amongst a wide range of car buyers."



## Vauxhall bringing OnStar to the UK

Vauxhall is bringing OnStar, its in-car telematics system, to the UK this summer, which includes a high-speed 4G mobile network, emergency response notification and stolen vehicle recovery technology.

The system will be free for customers for the first year, and will be available in selected models in Vauxhall's passenger car range from August.

Debuting at the 2015 Frankfurt Motor Show in September, the first all-new Vauxhall to get OnStar will be the British-built Astra, which will arrive in UK showrooms in October.

Based in Luton, OnStar's European headquarters is set to open for business this summer. Globally, OnStar already serves around seven million customers in the United States, Canada, China and Mexico.

As well as the United Kingdom, OnStar will be available in 13 other markets across Europe.

Commenting on the programme rollout, Tim Tozer, Vauxhall's chairman and managing director, said: "With OnStar, Vauxhall is bringing the latest connectivity technology to a wider audience.

"OnStar will make driving safer as well as

offering new innovations in infotainment and telematics.

"And best of all, the system will be free to customers for the first year of ownership," said Mr Tozer.

If an airbag deploys, OnStar will be alerted automatically and an advisor will then contact the vehicle to determine whether help is required. If there is no response, emergency services are requested.

Available 24/7 and 365 days a year, OnStar advisors are located at the OnStar service centre in Luton.

At a push of an SOS button, OnStar users can request assistance whenever they deem it necessary, for example, if they witness an accident. The new system also includes a roadside assistance service to cover breakdowns.

OnStar will be able to assist vehicle owners and police if a vehicle with the system is stolen. Remote ignition block will allow OnStar to send a remote signal to the vehicle that blocks the engine from starting once it has been reported stolen.

And, in a bid to make fault diagnosis easier, OnStar can provide subscribers with a monthly vehicle diagnostics email.

A check can be requested at any time at the push of a button, providing peace of mind before setting off on a longer journey, for example.

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Fuel consumption figures for the Honda range in mpg (l/100km): Urban Cycle 23.2 - 70.6 (12.2 - 4.0), Extra Urban 40.4 - 85.6 (7.0 - 3.3), Combined 32.5 - 78.5 (8.7 - 3.6). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions 201 - 94g/km. Fuel consumption figures sourced from official EU-regulated laboratory test results are provided for comparison purposes and may not reflect real-life driving experience.

Models shown for illustrative purposes only. Terms and Conditions: 37 months 0% APR Representative (interest rate per annum 0.0% fixed). Minimum customer deposit 0%, maximum customer deposit 30%. You do not have to pay the Final Payment if you return the car at the end of the agreement and you have paid all other amounts due. The vehicle is in good condition and has been serviced in accordance with the Honda service book and the maximum annual mileage has not been exceeded. Indemnities may be required in certain circumstances. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over, subject to status. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. Credit provided by Honda Finance Europe Plc, Cann Road, Beckwith, Berkshire RG12 1HL. Honda Finance Europe Plc is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Financial Services Register number 312541. Offer available between the 1 July 2015 and 31 July 2015 inclusive on participating models between 90 and 180 days old, with a starting mileage of 50 miles or less.





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**Peugeot 2008 Special Edition Ur-**

Following the showroom success of Peugeot's 2008 Crossover, a new special edition is announced for 2015 – the 2008 Urban Cross, now available to order and priced from £16,495.

Based on the Active badge level, but benefiting from enhanced specifications, the 2008 Urban Cross is available in either the 1.2-litre PureTech 110hp S&S (Stop & Start) with 108g/km of CO2 or 1.6-litre BlueHdi 100hp S&S with 95g/km of CO2 emissions.

The main focus of 2008 Urban Cross is the strong exterior and interior styling, noticeably with a new and exclusive metallic Emerald paint colour.

The vehicle also features 17in alloy wheels and Grip Control as standard, along with rear Parking Aid and electric, heated and folding door mirrors.

Black door mirrors also add to the distinctive exterior styling.

The Urban Cross premium trim, with emerald stitching, is complemented by the leather steering wheel and gear-knob, with emerald contrast stitching to further enhance the appeal of the interior.



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**Official Fuel Consumption Figures for the Suzuki Celerio range mpg (litres/100km) and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (g/km): Urban 55.3-68.9 (5.3-4.1), Extra Urban 76.3-83.0 (3.7-3.4), Combined 65.7-78.4 (4.3-3.6), CO<sub>2</sub> emissions 99-84 g/km.**

The above fuel consumption figures are based on an EU test for comparative purposes only and may not reflect real driving results. \*This offer is available from 1st July 2015 to 30th September 2015 from participating Authorised Suzuki Dealers only. This offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer unless otherwise stated. This offer relates to Suzuki Personal Contract Purchase (PCP Finance Deal). All prices are correct at the time of going to print. Credit is available to persons aged 18 years or over, subject to status. Contract based on 6,000 miles per annum. For full details contact your local Suzuki Dealer. Suzuki Finance reserves the right to withdraw or amend this offer without notice or prior warning. This offer is available to customers within the UK (excludes Channel Islands & Isle of Man). The aforementioned Suzuki dealer is a credit broker not a lender. Suzuki Financial Services Limited, part of Lloyds Banking Group: St William House, Tresillian Terrace, Cardiff, CF10 5BH. We may receive commission or other benefits for introducing you to Suzuki Financial Services. For full details contact your local participating Suzuki Dealer. All prices and specifications correct at time of going to print. Model shown: Celerio SZ2 (metallic paint available at £415).

Search/SuzukiCarsUK





# Exclusivity is guaranteed

By Sharon Walters

**Exclusivity is guaranteed with the new Kia Sportage Axis Edition, a limited-run model of which only 1,200 will be made.**

The Sportage 'Axis Edition' has been styled and equipped to provide retail and fleet customers with many of the features of a high-grade Sportage for a mid-range price, starting from just £20,995 on the road from this week.

It will be available with a choice of two powertrains and four colours. The engines are the 1.6-litre GDI direct-injection petrol unit developing 133bhp and 165Nm of torque, or the advanced 1.7-litre common-rail turbodiesel which develops 114bhp and 260Nm. Both are front-wheel-drive models with a six-speed manual transmission linked to Kia's Intelligent Stop & Go engine stop-start system to save fuel and eliminate emissions when idling in traffic.

The standard colour is solid Arctic White, but buyers are able to opt for one of three metallic finishes – Phantom Black, Fusion White or Dark Gun Metal – for £525.

The Sportage 'Axis Edition' models sit between trim grades '2' and '3' in the range, but include many of the features found even higher in the line-up plus a number of SUV finishing touches, including roof rails as standard. The black gloss arrow mesh radiator grille with chrome surround, LED daytime running lamps and rear LED combination lamps and the roof-mounted 'shark's fin' antenna deliver a premium look. Automatic headlight control is included in the lighting package, and the 'Axis Edition'

models are fitted with electric folding door mirrors with LED indicators.

The interior is upholstered in unique black leather with contrasting grey Dinamica® microfiber inserts. This is complemented by the light grey door inserts unique to the 'Axis Edition' models. The front and outer rear seats incorporate heater elements. The premium look of the interior is enhanced by black headlining, black B and C pillar coverings and black sun visors, grab handles and map light switches. Privacy glass and an auto-dimming rear-view mirror are other luxury flourishes fitted as standard.

The lavish specification includes a seven-speaker Infinity® high-end sound system incorporating a subwoofer and external amp. This includes an AM/FM radio, CD player, USB and AUX sockets and iPod connectivity. Bluetooth music streaming and hands-free phone operation are also supported, with voice control in any of 10 languages.

The Axis Edition models also come with a seven-inch touchscreen satellite navigation system including full UK postcode recognition and European mapping for 44 countries. The system includes TMC traffic messaging with a detour function, motorway junction views, lane guidance and a speed limit alert. It allows the driver to input quick, short and economy routes. A reversing camera with views displayed in the touchscreen is an additional useful feature built into the system.

The 1.6-litre GDI engine makes it possible to increase power and torque levels while reducing fuel consumption and CO2 emissions. Typically, a GDI engine will deliver seven per cent more torque at low engine revolutions and 12 per cent more torque at high rpm than a conventional engine of similar capacity – and with fuel economy improvement of about 10 per cent.



.....  
**‘As with every Kia, the Sportage Axis models come with a unique in the UK seven year or 100,000 mile warranty.’**  
 .....

A fine mist of petrol is injected directly into each of the four cylinders at up to 135 bar in minutely precise quantities and with millisecond timing to ensure the Sportage uses only as much fuel as it needs, exactly when it needs it. The result is highly efficient combustion that ensures excellent performance with low fuel consumption and emissions.

The 1.7-litre turbodiesel is part of the U2 family. Developing 114bhp at 4,000rpm and 260Nm (192lb/ft) of torque at 1,250 - 2,750rpm, it has been crafted for optimum driveability in European conditions. More

than 90 per cent of maximum torque is available from just 2,000rpm. Performance is similar to that of the 1.6-litre petrol version, with a maximum speed of 107mph and 0-60mph acceleration in 11.9 seconds, while combined fuel economy is 54.4mpg and CO2 emissions are 135g/km.

As with every Kia, the Sportage Axis Edition models come with a unique in the UK seven-year or 100,000 mile warranty, subject to certain wear and tear conditions. It is fully transferable should the car be sold before the time or mileage limits have been reached

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**VAUXHALL**

**Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range (excl. Ampera): Urban: 12.7 (22.3) - 76.3 (3.7), Extra-urban: 23.9 (11.8) - 94.2 (3.0), Combined: 18.0 (15.7) - 88.3 (3.2). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions: 373 - 85g/km.\***

Personal contract hire offer on Viva SE 1.0i 75PS in Solar Red, subject to availability and status. Age 18+ only. Figures based on a non-maintenance contract hire package with advance rental of £1958, then 23 monthly rentals of £89. Excess miles over contracted mileage of 16,000 over 24 months charged at 5.50ppm. Personal contract hire offer on ADAM SLAM 1.2i 70PS in Greenspotting metallic paint with White My Fire roof colour pack, subject to availability and status. Age 18+ only. Figures based on a non-maintenance contract hire package with advance rental of £2,900, then 23 monthly rentals of £145. Excess miles over contracted mileage of 16,000 over 24 months charged at 6.53ppm. Personal contract hire offer on New Corsa Excite 1.4 90PS a/c in Sovereign Silver, subject to availability and status. Age 18+ only. Figures based on a non-maintenance contract hire package with advance rental of £3,380, then 23 monthly rentals of £169. Excess miles over contracted mileage of 16,000 over 24 months charged at 6.64ppm. Excess charges also apply if you breach manufacturer servicing or maintenance guidelines or if the car exceeds BVRLA Fair Wear & Tear guidelines for its age/mileage when it is returned to Vauxhall Leasing. Package includes Road Fund Licence and Vauxhall Assistance. Guarantee/indemnity may be required. Prices and details are subject to change without notice. For full specification and T&Cs contact your local Retailer. You will not own the car. ALD Automotive Ltd., trading as Vauxhall Leasing, B516 3JA. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Offers available on orders or registrations between 2 July and 7 October 2015. \*MPG figures are official test data and may not reflect real driving results. Offer applies to pre model year 2016 vehicles only. See Retailer for further details. Correct at time of going to press.





# Golf GTE, a practical approach to motoring

By Ian Donaldson

**There was no escaping the gleam in the eyes of the people I met while trying to plug the test Golf into a public charging point to add more free miles to the journey.**

None of the drivers was in a Golf GTE – it's too new to see many on the road – but they were all solid converts of life with a battery doing the work. It's saving them a small fortune, they reckoned.

Two were driving Nissan Leafs, an all-electric car that simply stops when the juice runs out (after 90 miles when I tried one), but their owners simply planned recharge stops, or contemplated hiring a conventional car for the occasional long drive.

The Golf GTE won't go anywhere near that far on electricity alone, with an optimistic 31 miles quoted by its maker. The best I managed, with air con off and never exceeding 50mph, was 24 miles.

All of them delightfully smooth and quiet, it must be said, as the electric motor pulled this spacious and quite weighty machine away from a standstill with the insistent strength of gravity turned on its side.

And when the electric power is spent, the petrol engine switches itself on and you proceed with a little more noise from up front but with a range only limited by finding a filling station.

## Pence

Topping up the battery from a three pin domestic plug takes under four hours and costs pence.

It was faster (and free) from the charge points I found in a couple of town centres, but be warned, the big white rapid charging boxes at motorway services won't work on the GTE.

Anyway, after precisely 601 miles on test the dashboard monitor showed an overall fuel consumption of 69.2mpg. That included several battery top ups but one long journey on mostly petrol power alone (with no charger at the overnight halt).

So even with a short all-electric range, the GTE was a thrifty machine.

Push the GTE button by the gear selector and it's a quick one too; combining both power sources to turn the car into a properly swift hatchback.

## Recharge

Stiffer springs than a conventional Golf and bigger alloy wheels firm up the ride and provide something like a sporty feel on corners, while a thick rimmed steering wheel and subtly tartan trim play on the junior GTI theme inside.

Volkswagen builds an all-electric e-Golf (£26,325 after grant) and it will take the car quite briskly more than 100 miles before you're stuck needing a recharge.

For rather less (£24,965) you could go for the all-petrol Golf 1.4 TSI with automatic gearbox, more than enough performance and a likely mid-40s to the gallon.

Sorry for all the figures, but there are more. Run a Golf GTE as your company car and both your pocket and the firm's bottom line will be considerably boosted by the tax incentives the government uses to tempt more of us down the greener road.

No London congestion charge, either. A further incentive to look hard at a GTE, despite the high purchase price, is a list of standard kit that runs from a fine sat nav system, six-speed auto gearbox and adaptive cruise control to a DAB radio, automatic air conditioning and parking sensors front and rear.

The boot is smaller than you'll find in a conventional Golf (the big battery means the petrol tank has to be moved rearward) but it's still a decent size. There's also a space-saver spare wheel instead of the dreaded can of gloop, so you won't be stuck with a puncture when a rock takes out a side-wall.

If that sounds like a properly practical approach to motoring, the GTE might be precisely the same.

## TESTED

### Volkswagen Golf GTE

**Engine:** 201bhp petrol and electric motor

**Warranty:** Three years, 60,000 miles

**Economy:** The Golf GTE can do 166mpg

**Insurance:** 26

**Price:** £28,755 (after £5,000 grant)

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Mahogany Unit with drawer and shelf, small, £15.  
Single bed with drawers, as new, fire resistant, £65.  
Two dressing tables, 1 four drawer, 1 two drawer, oak/teak colour £35 each.  
Washing Machine, working order, Hoover, £20.  
01902 831134.

## in your garden

## BARGAIN

**LAWN TRACTOR 22HP**  
42 inch cut with collector.  
Totally new and unused.  
Cost £3,500.  
Will accept £1,750.  
Can deliver.  
Telephone 07710 169150.  
**BARGAIN**

## items for sale

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

**FLOOR TILES** cream Italian porcelain, by Marco Pollo, 87 tiles 60cmx60cm, still boxed, cost £900, accept £200. 07772 280037.  
**SUNBED** Philips Solarium, 20 tube. Good working order, £400 ono. 07758 458016.

## items wanted

**ALL GOLD 9ct £300 per ounce**  
**CASH PAID TODAY**  
A GENUINE LADY BUYER  
All Beswick • Doulton • Worcester Moorcroft • Lladro • Old coins • Watches • Costume Jewellery • Old toys • Clocks • Paintings • Old silver • Chinese items • Old Ivory • Military items  
Pre-47 silver coins All war medals etc  
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01922 495066 or 07971 783206

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**FOR ALL RAILWAY COLLECTIONS**  
Any gauge or age  
Hornby / Bachmann / Bowmans / Roundhouse / Graham / Farish / any live steam. Also Die Cast, Corgi, Dinky, Spot On.  
0121 602 2569/07891 713547.  
thetrainmaster67@hotmail.com

**A BEST CASH PRICE PAID**

**ALL TOYS CARS/LORRIES WANTED.**  
All Mamod/Wileco/Bowmans All conditions  
"Dinky" "Corgi" "Spot-on" "Britains and Airfix" "Mamod / Wileco Steam Engines" "Star Wars Figures" "Scalextric Pre 1970's" Tri-ang, cars or complete sets.  
"Old Enamel Advertising Signs" "Railway collections" "Pre 1970 Annuals wanted, Beano, Dandy, etc"  
01902 745598 / 07984 159571

**ALL BRASS / COPPER** ornaments/ brassware, all descriptions, miners' tools, old medals, dinky, corgi toys. 01902 745598.

**MAMOD STEAM Engines/ Trains** wanted all conditions/ descriptions, Dinky, Corgi, Spot on diecast vehicles. 01902 745598.

**READERS ARE ADVISED** to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

**WANTED COMPREHENSIVE STAMP COLLECTION**  
Approx up to 1950 required. Good price offered.  
Private buyer.  
01562 753684.

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**mobile phones**

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Free Estimates on any TV Repairs, Plasma, LCD, 3D, LED, Projection. All areas covered 8 till late. 7 days. Digital aerials, Sky installation. Wall mounts & TV setups.  
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## specialists at your service

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Super 6  
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Reliable & Friendly, Professional Female Painter and Decorator  
Wallpaper is my speciality, competitive prices. For the Perfect Finish with minimum hassle. Plastering & Coving Work Undertaken  
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Single items, Full houses, Offices etc  
Recession rates, FREE QUOTES  
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40 years experience  
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## 4 Pets & Animals

## equestrian corner

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All neutered, inoculated and chipped.  
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Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:

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2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

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01384 252158 or 01588 676106.  
For more information.

## 5 Business & Farming


## business opportunities

**IT'S FREE IT'S EASY**  
\*Advertise any item FREE up to the value of £250 go to: www.expressandstar.com/bookanad

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commercial and industrial premises, shops, factories, building plots...  
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Property investor needs properties in your area  
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We are looking for houses in your area. We will take any type of property in any condition. Call us first - highest prices paid

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100% every time\*  
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Call the HOUSE DOCTOR  
Now for the best price

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It's a simple as that, you get the best deal on your home from **FIRST GENERAL HOMES**

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call Alex **0800 111 441**  
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**6 Property**

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**PICK UP the phone CALL NOW Best Price**

Sam

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**I WILL BUY YOUR HOUSE**

Call today for a best price

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**accommodation to let**

**NOTICE TO READERS** It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

**BEDSIT PENN AREA** Newly decorated, quiet house, laundry facilities, door step amenities, ref reqd. No DSS. 07466 379419.

**NEWBRIDGE 2 bed apartment**, also Tipton 1 bed ground floor flat. Call/text 07779 615293.

**TWO BEDROOM HOUSE TO LET**, Deans Road, Wolverhampton, available early August, DSS accepted, deposit and references, £480pcm. 0121 2969866.

**accommodation wanted**

**URGENTLY REQUIRED** 3/4 bedroom house, wanted for private rental, must have garage also accept pets. Cannock, Willenhall or Essington areas. Please call 07914 795707

**WANTED FOR RENT**

By retired lady small detached property in good area with electric heating. References and evidence of financial stability available

Viewings before refurb.

Write to **Box Number P19916**, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

**NOTICE TO READERS**

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Private Sale. No agency Fees. Set in 7/8 of an acre of stunning garden. Barn: Open plan kitchen diner/living room, log burner, two double bedrooms. Cottage: One bedroom, open plan kitchen and lounge.

£179,000.

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**PARK HOME 20X38 23 THE MOORINGS**

Four years old, two bedrooms, wet room room with Mira Shower, fitted kitchen, on friendly site in the country side, mature gardens, Long Lane area (TF6).

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**full time - general**

**ANDYFREIGHT LIMITED**

**full time - general**

We are currently seeking a Transport Planner plus Class 1 and 2 drivers

**TRANSPORT PLANNER**

Our established business is continuing to grow and we are now looking to add an experienced Transport Planner to work as part of the team in our busy Stourbridge office.

To be considered you must have a very good geographical knowledge and relevant experience in a similar position.

**Key Responsibilities**

- To assist in the efficient and effective planning of deliveries and collections locally and across the UK of all company and sub contract vehicles whilst meeting customer expectations and service
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**The Successful Applicant**

- Certificate of professional Competence (preferable but not essential)
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**A competitive package is offered to the right person**

**CLASS 1 & 2 DRIVERS**

We are also looking for Class 1 & 2 drivers based at our Stourbridge site. With an improved employee package now being offered including:

Increased base rates; Expenses, Nights out and Meal allowances; Life insurance and pension scheme; Sickness and accident insurance; Driver development programme; Driver uniforms supplied; Operating with a modern fleet of Mercedes vehicles in a planned, safe and clean environment.

To request an application for any of the above roles please call **01384 898700**, visit [www.andyfreight.co.uk](http://www.andyfreight.co.uk) or by post to - Andyfreight Ltd, Folkes Road, Lye, Stourbridge, DY9 8RB

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**CLEANER REQUIRES  
PART TIME WORK**  
Honest and reliable.  
Please call  
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**RETIRED TIME SERVED  
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Requires casual / part time  
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Has been involved in general  
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CRB cleared.  
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8

## Motoring

## cars over £1500



CITROEN C3 PICASSO

2013, 12,300 miles, VTR +, 1.4  
petrol, black, air con, central  
locking, cruise control, alloys,  
looks as new, drives great.

£5,750 ono.

07503 188501.

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FORD FOCUS  
CONVERTIBLE

Hard top, many extras.

Top of range model, low miles.

Very good condition,

£3,950.

07790 480811.

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ELEGANCE

Auto, petrol, private plate, 2001,  
12 months MoT, 41,000 miles  
from new, full history, 2 owners  
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Telephone 01952 730522  
or 07930 551559.



MERCEDES ML320

2007, 121,647 miles, abs, elec-  
tric windows, air bag, electric  
mirrors, air con, fsh, alarm, full  
MoT, fsh, leather seats, climate  
control, electric seats.

£9,800 ono.

07711 442125.

**MG TF 135 COOL BLUE** 03 reg.  
50,000 miles, very good condition.  
£1,500.

**MINI COOPER**, 09 Reg, grey, black  
roof, one owner, fsh, £5,650.  
07973 278670.

**NISSAN MICRA 1.2** 2007, 4Dr,  
silver, AC, alloys, MoT, good condi-  
tion, £1,750 ono.  
07957 165214 / 01902 540434.

**NISSAN MICRA**, 2008, 3 door,  
hatchback, 1.4, 73,888 miles, blue,  
electric windows, MoT June 29,  
2016, CD, £2,400 ono.  
07850 462521.

**PEUGEOT 207 1.4 ENVY**  
blue, 2011, 25,000 miles, MoT  
till May 2016.  
Excellent condition.  
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07708 149520.

**PEUGEOT 307cc  
CONVERTIBLE 2004**  
Long MoT, full leather interior,  
full electric pack, metallic silver,  
3 owners from new. Very good  
condition. Ideal summer car.  
£1,595 ono.  
07792 00500.

**TOYOTA YARIS 1.0**  
black, 2-door hatchback, very  
good condition, 60k miles, CD  
player, AC, power steering,  
FSH, MoT, electric front  
windows.  
£3,500 ono.  
07525 396370.

**VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4  
CLUB**  
Manual, 5 door, hatchback,  
2006, 56 reg, 88k miles, silver,  
e/w, a/c, full MoT, alloy wheels,  
central locking. Very good  
condition. £1,750 ono.  
07792 184495.

**VAUXHALL ASTRA** Bertone Exclu-  
sive, Convertible, 1800cc, 06 reg,  
MoT, black, good condition, £1,750  
ono. 07746 931171.

**VAUXHALL CORSA C**  
2006, 1.25Xi and twinport, half  
leather, EW, AC, 10 months  
MoT, 70,000 miles, very good  
condition.  
£2,150 ono.  
07821 113500.

**VAUXHALL INSIGNIA  
EXCLUSIV**  
1.8, petrol, 12 reg,  
MoT June 2016, FSH,  
silver, 50,000 miles, lovely car,  
sale due to company car.  
£6,499.  
07866 324999, Sedgley.

## cars under £1500

**ADVERTISERS ARE  
REMINDING**  
that the Business Advertisers  
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1977 requires that advertise-  
ments must clearly  
differentiate between Private  
and Trade.

**CHEVROLET KALOS 1.4**  
3dr, hatch, 06/55 plate, blue  
metallic, 46,000 miles, April  
2016 MoT in excellent condition  
£1,295 ono.  
07973 826922.

**CITROEN C4 1.4CC LX**  
5 door, not Picasso, metallic  
black, late 2006, 81,000 miles,  
fully loaded, MoT, excellent  
condition, drives well.  
£995.

Telephone 07445 709081.

**FORD FOCUS 1600**  
02 reg, alloys, CD,  
9 months MoT.  
£500.  
01384 251328 or  
07972 169554.

**FORD FOCUS EDGE**  
2004, 108,000 miles, grey, air  
con, long MoT, metallic paint,  
1.8 petrol, nice car.  
£650.  
07980 261585.

**FORD MONDEO**  
2001, 2.0, alloys, CD, excellent  
condition, 10 months MoT.  
£500 ono.  
07772 795042.

**FORD MONDEO** Hatch, 2001, 1800  
petrol, good condition, 12 months  
MoT, slight dent on wing. £650 ono.  
01902 897019 or 07870 241804.



MAZDA 2 SD

2005, 84,000 miles, silver, abs,  
air bag, air con, fsh, alarm, long  
MoT, metallic paint, central  
locking, pas, diesel, Stereo,  
CD, £30 tax.  
£1,450 ono.  
07767 124981.

**NISSAN MICRA 1300**  
3-dr, 04 reg, long MoT, mint  
green, CD,  
very good condition  
£700 ono.  
07759 737894.

**PEUGEOT 206 HDI**  
1.9 SE 5dr, 2004 reg, blue,  
49,000 miles, FSH, 1 former  
keeper, 12 months MoT  
Excellent condition  
Only £1,495.  
07984 141652.

**PEUGEOT 206 LX 1400CC**,  
1999,  
5 door, MoT Jan 2016,  
88,000 miles.  
Only £395 for a quick.  
Telephone 01902 822939  
or 07928 679949.

**PEUGEOT 206 LX 1400CC**,  
1999, 5 door, MoT Jan 2016,  
88,000 miles.  
Only £395 for a quick sale.  
Telephone 01902 822939  
or 07928 679949.

**PEUGEOT 406 ESTATE**  
2000 reg, 11 months MoT,  
2 owners, CD, electric seats,  
caravan tow bar, new battery,  
excellent.  
£895 ono.  
01902 341611.

**RENAULT CLIO DYNAMIQUE**  
2003, 76,000 miles, alloy wheels.  
New clutch, MoT'd, £700. o.n.o.  
Call 01384 231106 after 6pm.

**RENAULT CLIO  
DYNAMIQUE**  
silver, 1.4, MoT'd, AC, 07  
plate,  
£1,195.  
07720 961929.

**RENAULT MEGANE 1.6** petrol, 5Dr  
hatch, 05, black MoT Oct, electric,  
5 speed manual, 87,500 miles.  
some history, £950. 07970 790855.

**RENAULT MEGANE SCENIC  
DYNAMIQUE X**  
5 door, hatchback, low mileage,  
good runner, 12 months MoT,  
2 sunroofs, leather interior.  
£700 ono.  
Telephone 01902 780467.

**ROBIN RELIANT LX**  
848cc, Royal blue, 1998, S reg,  
10 months MoT,  
Spares or repair.  
£650 ono.  
Telephone 07879 957051.

**ROVER 25 SEI**  
White, 5 door, hatchback, 2004,  
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10  
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# Deadly duo bring back winning ways for Heathens

DEADLY duo Max Clegg and Ellis Perks both struck magnificent maximums to lead Cradley back to winning ways with a convincing 59-33 triumph over Stoke at Perry Barr.

Having suffered back-to-back defeats for the first time since 2011, the Heathens got their bid for an unprecedented third successive National League title back on track with a dominant display against the Potters.

The all-action Perks was in scintillating form as he dropped back to reserve, recording his first ever paid maximum from seven rides.

His night got off to a difficult start as he touched the tapes in his opening ride – yet he made a mockery of his 15-metre handicap to storm to the front and take the chequered flag.

It was Perks who nullified Stoke's tactical ride bid as he squeezed around the outside of former Heathens' favourite Jon Armstrong in dramatic fashion as he went for double points in heat five.

Skipper Max Clegg and the in-form Matt Williamson were also in superb form in the heat leader positions as the trio accounted for all 15 race wins to overpower the struggling Potters.

No.1 Clegg got the Heathens off to the perfect start as he led a 5-1.

**CRADLEY 59:** Ellis Perks 20+1, Max Clegg 15, Matt Williamson 14, Arron Mogridge 8+4, Tyler Govier 2, Adam Extance 0, Nathan Greaves R/R

**STOKE 33:** Lee Payne 9, Danny Phillips 7+1, Jon Armstrong 7, Ryan Terry-Daley 4+2, Shaun Tedham 4+1, Paul Burnett 2+2, Chris Widman R/R

# Albion cast an eye over young Gunner

ALBION are considering a loan move for Arsenal's teenage winger Serge Gnabry while they step up efforts to bring long-time pursuit of QPR's Matt Phillips to a conclusion.

Boss Tony Pulis is an admirer of Gnabry, who turns 20 tomorrow, with the Gunners eager to loan the German youth international out another top-flight club to help his development.

The wide man has made 17 appearances for Arsene Wenger's side since making his debut aged 16, but he did not feature last term.

Pulis meanwhile is keen to bolster Albion's pace on the flanks but any deal for Gnabry would not be viewed as an alternative to Phillips, who is his No.1 target. Negotiations continued over the weekend as Albion tried to persuade the R's to lower their £10m valuation.

# Govier in side for Buxton clash



Tyler Govier keeps his place

TYLER Govier is set to keep his place in the Cradley side for next Wednesday's Perry Barr clash with Buxton.

And the Devon racer is determined to stay in the side for the rest of the season after finally getting his opportunity.

He will ride on Wednesday followed by trips to Sheffield and King's Lynn on Thursday and Friday.

"I'm really grateful to be getting my chance in the team, I've been waiting all season for this opportunity and now it's finally arrived," Govier said.

"I just want to hold down a full time

place, and I want to stay with the Heathens because I know the fans are backing me a lot which is amazing to see.

"I haven't ever had this much support, and to have the fans behind you is something else.

"It's a great club, I feel really lucky to have the chance to ride here and I just want to make the most of it now.

"I had a big crash in my first meeting which was a blow and I hurt my back, but luckily it wasn't too serious and I was so pleased to get another chance.

"I was a lot more comfortable on the

bike against Stoke, and to be honest I don't think my points really reflected how well I rode.

"I was unlucky with bike problems in my last ride, and overall I was really happy with the way things went.

"It's not easy coming in halfway through the season when I haven't been riding too much, so I know I need to be patient and just take it step by step."

Meanwhile the club have confirmed top stars Ashley Morris and Josh Bates for the F.A.S.T Golden Hammer at Perry Barr on August 12.

# Stourbridge move out of drop zone

**Stourbridge 1st XI 112-3 Penkridge 109-10 (Stourbridge win)**

**STOURBRIDGE 1st XI produced by far their best team performance of the season.**

The win against Penkridge 1st XI placed fourth in Division Two of the Birmingham and District Premier league gets Stour out of the relegation zone to third from bottom.

Penkridge had hopes of rolling Stour over but the home side had other ideas as half the Penkridge side were back in the pavilion for 48 runs.

Umar Khalid triggered the collapse by taking the wicket of Kieran Smith caught for nine in the sixth over, Khalid struck again trapping No.3 Rana Hassan for 10, bowling from the football stand end Jitesh Jivan – Patel had the wicket of the other opener Liam Brazier caught for 12 in the 11th over.

Successful bowling change saw the downfall of Atque Chishti caught behind off the leg Audy Alexander for five, and Jivan-Patel put an end to the knock of Laeq Chishti LBW for four.

Skipper Paul Szweczk and Chad Clarke retrieved the innings took the score to 68 when Zain Ul Hassen had Clarke caught in the slips for 14.

Once the skipper was out caught off Alexander for 18 Penkridge were on a slippery slope with 23 overs still remaining.

**Kings Heath 2nd XI 192 -9 Stourbridge 2nd XI 196-4 (Stourbridge win)**

Stourbridge notched up a notable win.

Kings Heath top order gave their side a sound start . The Lower order succumbed to the offspin of Mikes Jivan-Patel who snapped up 6-41 off 15 overs and Junad Afzal who took four for 54 off 13 overs. Stourbridge reached their target in 44 overs.

**Stourbridge 3rd XI 147-4 Redditch 144 -10 Stourbridge win**

Skipper Dave Colesby fielded first. Thanks to his bowling performance opposition were bowled out for 144 on the 40th over. The skipper bagged 5 wickets for 9 runs off 10 overs. Stour's top order just took 38 overs to reach the target.

**Redditch 4th XI 117-8 Stourbridge 3rd XI 121-3 Stourbridge win**

Stour's Alistaire Davidson took four wickets.

# Pool pair picked to perform



**Brittany Horton, aged 16 on right, from Brierley Hill and Chloe Finch 17 from Rowley Regis**

TWO Black Country swimming aces are being backed to shine on the international stage this summer.

Chloe Finch, from Rowley Regis, has been picked to represent Great Britain at the FINA World Junior Swimming Championships in Singapore next month while Brittany Horton, from Brierley Hill, has been called up by England for the Commonwealth Youth Games in Samoa in September. Both girls, aged 17 and 16 respectively, swim for City of Birmingham Swimming Club and their coach Carl Grosvenor said: "I think both are capable of winning medals.

"Australia will be very strong at the Commonwealth Games and at the World Junior Championships you will also have the Americans, the Chinese and the Japanese who will also be strong. "They will face

world class opposition but both Chloe and Brittany will be going there to win medals and they are definitely capable of it.

"Chloe is ranked second in the world in her age group for the 800m freestyle while Brittany is ranked fifth for the 200m back stroke."

Chloe and Brittany join a growing line of internationals at the club.

# Chess club's memorial win with last game

THE annual post-season friendly Tony Evers Memorial Match against Halesowen was held on July 8 at the Stourbridge Institute.

The match was played over 12 boards. On paper it looked like Stourbridge should win as they outgraded their opponents on most boards. Halesowen put up a great fight and the whole match depended on the result of the last game with Stourbridge needing a draw to win. Stourbridge's Colin Woodall played a perfect end game to queen a pawn and win the game giving Stourbridge the match 7-5.

The individual results were: Tony Evers Memorial Match Results

1. Dave Scriven 150 ½ Mike Hadley (158) ½; 2. Julie Wilson 143 1 Don Curry (137) 0; 3. John Foxall 140 0 Jon Asbury (129) 1; 4. Eric Horwill 138 0 Windsor Peck (125) 1; 5. Ron Evans 138 1 Paul Evans (122) 0; 6. Tony Shaw 132 1 Maureen Clark (112) 0; 7. Sam Bradley 122 ½ Logan Gregory (111) ½; 8. Jeremy Humphries 122 1 Martyn Hathaway (102) 0; 9. Jet Ajmal 113 1 Tony Taylor (94) 0; 10. Colin Woodall 113 1 Dave Etheridge (92) 0; 11. Martin Berridge 96 0 Chris Haddon (70) 1; 12. Kyle Price UG 0 Joyce Evans (63) 1. Result Stourbridge 7 Halesowen 5

The next round of Stourbridge's Summer tournament will be July 15.

The lead is shared in the tournament by Jeremy Fallowfield and David Scriven both on two for two with three rounds to go.

Anyone who is interested in joining Stourbridge chess club or playing in the Summer tournament should visit [www.stourbridgechess.f9.co.uk](http://www.stourbridgechess.f9.co.uk).

# Yacob pens a new deal with Albion

MIDFIELDER Claudio Yacob has handed Tony Pulis a major boost by penning a new two-year contract at Albion.

The 27-year-old signed the deal after flying home from the club's pre-season training camp in Austria.

Yacob has made 85 appearances for the Baggies since joining from Racing Club three years ago.

Albion had already activated a one-year option to keep him for next season but have now extended his contract for a further 12 months.

Yacob had fallen down the pecking order under former boss Alan Irvine.

Director of football administration Richard Garlick said: "Everybody saw Claudio's contribution to the team, particularly over the second half of last season."



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## Stourbridge post new match prices

STOURBRIDGE FC have confirmed their ground admission for league games and season ticket prices for the coming 2015/16 campaign.

The full prices are: Ground Admission for league games – Adults £10, Senior Citizens £6, 16-18 year olds £6, 12-15 year olds £3, Under 12s free when accompanied by a paying adult, senior citizen or 16-18 year old

Season Tickets/Membership. Full Season Tickets – Adults £170, Senior Citizens £100, 16-18 year olds £100, 12-15 year olds £50.

Flexi Season Tickets. Flexi season tickets are 12 numbered vouchers that can be used at any home League game. The vouchers are not restricted to the season ticket holder and can be used to allow entry for any person to any home League game.

Adults £100, Senior Citizens £60, 16-18 year olds £60, 12-15 year olds £30

Season tickets will be on sale at both of the club's home pre-season friendlies against Stafford Rangers on Tuesday July 28 and Lye Town on August 4 and also from the Glassboys Bar on other dates to be announced

Summer Holiday Football Coaching for 5-10 year olds

The Stourbridge FC Development Centre will be running football coaching for children aged between five and 10 during the summer holidays.

The coaching sessions will take place at Greenfields on Swinford Road, Oldswinford.

The first session will take place on Tuesday, July 21 and runs between 10 am and 3 pm. The cost is £10 a day.

To apply, or to obtain more information, please call 07941 655062 or e-mail info@stourbridgefc.co.uk

## Rob is on the hunt for Pearce in first defence of his belt

STAFFORD'S Rob Hunt now has a Midlands title fight against Stourbridge's Steven Pearce in his sights – which will be Hunt's first defence of the belt.

He set up a rematch with Pearce after overcoming Sleaford's Amir Unsworth at the Chase Leisure Centre in Cannock on Saturday.

The pair met back in 2013. Pearce was successful on that occasion, stopping Hunt with a vicious body shot in the fifth round.

Now, with him being lined up for the strap he held between March and May 2013, the duo are on a collision course to meet later this year.

Dudley's Ryan Aston, returned to winning ways after his Midlands light middleweight title loss to Jason Welborn last month.

'Tank' recorded a shut-out 40-35 points win over former area champion Kevin McAuley, who was deducted a point for attempting to throw his opponent.

Tipton's Lee Glover will next face Barnsley's Andy Townend.

## Yeltz shutout neighbours Cradley

Cradley 0 Halesowen 3

HALESOWEN kicked off their pre-season campaign with a well-deserved victory over Black Country neighbours Cradley Town.

A host of new faces featured in the Yeltz side, and it included the experienced trio of Anthony Charles, Mike Taylor and Greg Pearson.

The first half was a dull affair between the sides, both having a handful of chances at goal. Ex-Yeltzman Aaron Lloyd came closest for Cradley in the opening stages as his attempted shot just flew wide of the post while Halesowen's Joe Hull came close as his header was well saved by the Cradley keeper. The second half was a com-

### Football

pletely different affair as the Yeltz dominated. Greg Pearson had two chances early on, but both were saved well.

However, Halesowen broke the deadlock on 68 minutes as Ashley Parsons-Smith hit an inviting cross into the box and it was Pearson who managed to hit the ball first time straight into the net to give the Yeltz the lead.

Halesowen doubled their lead on 75 minutes, as Connor Collins was comfortably able to get his head to the ball and direct it straight into the net.

The game was put out of reach on 84 minutes with Mike Taylor grabbing his first goal for the club with a powerful volley that flew under the keeper and straight into the net to put the Yeltz three goals ahead and to give them a comfortable margin of victory.

Halesowen continue their pre-season at Sporting Khalsa on Friday evening.

Halesowen: Trialist, Ashley Parsons-Smith, Trialist (Isaac Cooper), Trialist (Triallist), Joe Hull (Triallist), Anthony Charles (Asa Charlton), Trialist, Danny Bragoli, Greg Pearson (Connor Collins), Mike Taylor (Triallist), Aaron Griffiths.

# GLASSBOYS GET THE FIRST WIN

AFC Bridgnorth 1 Stourbridge 2

## STOURBRIDGE FC began their pre-season campaign with a narrow victory.

At Crown Meadow they came up against last season's West Midlands League Premier Division runners-up.

New signings Charlie Price, Kristian Green, Lee Chilton, Daniel Scarr, Stuart Pierpoint and Tom Tonks made their first appearances in Stour colours, whilst four trialists also played a part.

Jamie Insall and Nathan Hayward both started the match, with James Baldwin and James Hill coming off the bench for the last 20 minutes.

Stourbridge went in with a back three of Pierpoint, Connolly and Scarr with Chilton and Green operating as wing-backs. Brian Smikle played in attack alongside Insall.

In the second minute a long throw-in from Tonks on the left found the head of Green inside the box, however he directed his effort off-target.

The home side gave as good as they got in the opening 20 minutes or so, but gradually the Glassboys began to move the ball around better.

After a goalless first half, Green gave Stourbridge the lead on 47 minutes.

### Invitingly

Canavan delivered a deep cross from the left towards Smikle, but he failed to collect the ball cleanly. However, it broke invitingly for Green to find the net.

Bridgnorth responded well to falling behind with Anwar Olugban screwing a low shot into the side-netting before the Shropshire hosts drew level through Tyler Sands-Fawkes in the 51st minute.

He capitalised on some hesitant Stour defending.

As the half wore on Stourbridge regained the upper-hand to make their class tell against the tiring home side.

Smikle was denied by some last gasp defending on 71 minutes after Crook had done well to palm out a deflected looping cross from underneath his crossbar.

The goal that settled the game came six minutes from time as Insall, who was top scorer in the West Midlands League Division 1 last season with Bromyard Town, got the final touch.

## Harriers turn out for Andy



Andy Holden's sons get set to race, from left to right, Joe, Mike and Tom, who finished second

HUNDREDS of Tipton Harriers and fellow athletes celebrated the life of long-standing coach and club legend Andy Holden, who died two years ago.

The Andy Holden Memorial 5, was a five-mile race for senior athletes and a shorter 2k run for juniors at Coneyre Community Centre – near the club's Tipton Sports Academy home.

The race was sponsored by local firm Holden's Brewery – the Dudley company's managing director, Jonathan Holden, took part in the race with the brewery also donating bottles of special beer to each entrant.

Andy's sons, Joe, Mike and Tom, all entered the race, while widow Paula and daughter

Charley were on hand lending their support.

Jonathan Holden, son of Holden's Brewery founder Edwin who was Andy Holden's running partner, finished the race in 98th from 128 entrants in the senior division.

He said: "I enter quite a few local runs and saw this one come about – particularly as it was a memorial for Andy and thought, 'yeah I'll have a go at that'."

"It's a lovely gesture from the club, he was a very popular chap."

He completed the run in just under 27 minutes, while his brothers Joe and Mike came home in 43rd and 107th respectively.

## Whitley wins Wimbledon final again

JORDANNE Whitley successfully defended her Wimbledon title as she and playing partner Yui Kamiji won the wheelchair doubles final.

The pair beat Dutch duo Jiske Griffioen and Aniek Van Koot 6-2 5-7 6-3.

Briton Whitley, 23, and Japanese Kamiji, 21, have now won six Grand Slams out of seven.

Top seeds Whitley and Kamiji beat the British-German partnership of Louise Hunt and Katharina Kruger 6-0, 6-3 to get to Sunday's title decider for the third year in a row.

After her match, Whitley went on to social media to relay the good news tweeting: "We are Wimbledon champions for the second year running!"

Whitley and Kamiji, who won the calendar Grand Slam in 2014, sped through the opening set of their semi-final, but both were broken at the start of the second set as Hunt and Kruger took a 3-1 lead.

However, with Hunt making her Grand Slam debut, the experience of the five-time Grand Slam champions eventually came through as they completed their victory.

"It's always great to be back at Wimbledon and no match is easy here. We've been working a lot on some different stuff in training and I think it paid off today and we're really excited for the final," said doubles world No.2 Whitley, who won bronze in the London 2012 Paralympic doubles event.

"I've been working on my serve and although I had one game which went off a little bit I was proud of myself that I was able to find my rhythm again."

"Coming back to Wimbledon is great, it's my favourite tournament."

## Sherwood delighted as Delph to stay on

BOSS Tim Sherwood has hailed Fabian Delph for his loyalty after the skipper turned down the chance to join Manchester City to stay with Villa.

It had been anticipated the 25-year-old England international would make an £8m switch to City, with the deal expected to be completed over the weekend.

But in a remarkable turn of events, Delph decided he would instead remain at Villa Park, much to his manager's delight. Sherwood said: "We are looking to keep our best players. Fabian is certainly one of those. I'm delighted to have him here next season."

★★★

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